



'Too busy': Trump professes disinterest on impeachment

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What hearings? What phone call?

Professing disinterest and disdain, President Donald Trump said he was "too busy" doing the people's business Wednesday to watch the impeachment hearings that imperil his presidency. But even as Trump tried to suggest that he was above the fray, the president repeatedly laid out his many grievances against the process playing out on the opposite end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

"I hear it's a joke. I haven't watched for one minute," Trump said during a White House news conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after the day's testimony had ended. "This is a sham, and it shouldn't be allowed."

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President Donald Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

The first public hearing of the impeachment inquiry opened with two career public servants raising their hands and swearing an oath to tell the truth. Trump pushed back vigorously, insisting that the impeachment process is illegitimate and that he did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine.

Although claiming not to watch, Trump had tweeted and retweeted complaints about the inquiry more than 30 times by late afternoon and couldn't resist taking a swipe at Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, a principal political foe on Capitol Hill.

"It's a witch hunt, it's a hoax, I'm too busy to watch it," Trump told reporters. "There's nothing there. I see they're using lawyers that are television lawyers.

They took some guys off television. You know, I'm not surprised to see it because Schiff can't do his own questions."

Schiff is overseeing the impeachment hearings as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

"New hoax. Same swamp," read one tweet from the White House that Trump retweeted. He quoted his defenders and lashed out at the first witnesses to testify publicly, labeling William Taylor, the charge d'affaires in Ukraine, and George Kent, a career diplomat, as "NEVER TRUMPERS!"

Taylor and Kent worked for both Republican and Democratic administrations. There is no evidence that either engaged in partisan activity opposing Trump, and both denied being "Never Trumpers" when



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump welcome Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan to the White House, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

asked during the hearing. In one new development, Taylor said a member of his staff overheard Trump, dur-

ing a July phone call with another diplomat, asking about "the investigations." The Democrats have been trying to make the case that the president tried to extort Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and held up U.S. military aid as leverage.

Trump was asked about the phone call during a news conference with Erdogan. "I know nothing about that," he said, adding that he "did not recall" the conversation.

Among Trump's tweets, the president circulated a video in which he deemed the impeachment proceedings "the single greatest scam in the history of American politics."

"Our country is at stake like never before," he said in the video. "They're trying to stop me because I'm fighting for you. And I'll never let that happen." The hearing, the first on television for the nation to see, provided hours of partisan back-and-forth but no singular moment to be etched in the public consciousness as grounds for removing the 45th president from office. Even if the Democratic-

controlled House ultimately votes to make Trump only the third American president to be impeached, few expect the Republican-controlled Senate to remove Trump from office. And although a number of the president's advisers believe that impeachment could be a political winner for Trump on the campaign trail next year, the president has reacted angrily to the probe. He defends his phone call with Ukraine's leader, which is at the heart of the inquiry, as "perfect" while deriding the impeachment effort as a conspiracy among Democrats and the "deep state." Trump has long been frustrated by the inability of his own White House staff and his Republican cohorts on Capitol Hill to change the narrative of the impeachment inquiry and has urged them to mount a more robust defense.

Trump allies seemed to settle on two talking points Wednesday: that the hearings were "boring" and that the Ukraine matter was not an impeachable offense but a foreign policy disagreement. □

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Arctic blast spreads shivers from Maine to Deep South

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — An arctic blast that sent shivers across the Midwest spread to the eastern U.S. on Wednesday, with bitter weather breaking records from Mississippi to Maine.

Cold temperatures that stretched to the Gulf Coast followed a snowstorm that the National Weather Service said contributed to nearly 30% of the country being covered in snow as of Wednesday.

Snowfall, slippery roads and cold temperatures were blamed for more than a half-dozen deaths across the country since Monday. In the Northeast, temperatures dipped to single digits early Wednesday in some communities. Forecasters projected even lower temperatures late Wednesday and early Thursday in some locations.

More than 200 records have fallen since Monday, and the number is expected to exceed 300 by the time the cold snap ends, said Patrick Burke, lead forecaster at NOAA's Weather Predic-

tion Center in College Park, Maryland.

The temperatures reflect a normal winter weather pattern that broke loose early in the season, unleashing cold air from Arctic Circle, he said.

"This was a wakeup call for a lot of folks in the eastern half of the country," Burke said, noting that the eastern U.S. had enjoyed warm weather in September and October.

Record low temperatures for the date were recorded Tuesday in New York City; Buffalo, New York; Burlington, Vermont; Augusta, Maine, and parts of Ohio. More daily records were broken Wednesday morning in Burlington, Augusta, and several locations in Pennsylvania.

To the south, daily records fell Wednesday across a large swath of the region accustomed to milder weather.

The temperature dropped to 18 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 8 degrees Celsius) in Birmingham, Alabama, early Wednesday, breaking the previous low record



Snow and ice accumulates on the St. Joseph Lighthouses, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, as a fall snow storm moves through St. Joseph, Mich. Snow and ice accumulates on the St. Joseph Lighthouses, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, as a fall snow storm moves through St. Joseph, Mich.

Associated Press

of 22 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 6 degrees Celsius) set in 1911.

In Greenville, Mississippi, the temperature dropped to 17 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 8 degrees Celsius), breaking a record of 23 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 5 degrees Celsius) set 108 years ago, officials said.

Even the Gulf Coast saw temperatures below freezing, producing "sea smoke" as chilly air moved over warmer water.

The cold air followed heavy snow that reached as far south as Tennessee. Bad conditions were blamed for road deaths since Monday in Michigan, Kansas

and Ohio. In Chicago, the death of an 80-year-old man on Monday was classified as the city's second cold-related death of the season, officials said.

In southwestern Michigan, a man died Tuesday after getting trapped beneath machinery he was using to clear snow, officials said. □

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AP sources: Ex-Gov. Patrick says he'll make presidential bid

By JULIE PACE, BILL BARROW and STEVE PEOPLES
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick has told allies he will join the 2020 presidential race, according to two people familiar with his plans. An official announcement is expected before Friday, the filing deadline for the New Hampshire primary.

Patrick's move injects a new layer of uncertainty into the contest less than three months before the first votes. A popular two-term Democratic governor with a moderate bearing and close ties to former President Barack Obama, he is starting late but with a compelling life story and political resume.

The two people with knowledge of Patrick's plans spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

In addition to Patrick, Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York City, has taken steps toward launching a last-minute presidential campaign, filing candidate papers in Alabama and Arkansas. Even 2016 nominee Hillary Clinton this week said in a BBC interview that she is "under enormous pressure from many, many, many people to think about it," adding that she has no such plans but still would "never, never, never say never."

The moves reflect uncertainty about the direction of the Democratic contest with no commanding front-runner. Joe Biden entered the race as the presumptive favorite and maintains significant support from white moderates and black voters, whose backing is critical in a Democratic pri-



In this May 7, 2017 file photo, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick arrives at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston for the 2017 Profile in Courage award ceremony. Associated Press

mary. But he's facing spirited challenges from Patrick's home-state senator, Elizabeth Warren, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, progressives whose calls for fundamental economic change have alarmed moderates and wealthy donors.

Patrick could present himself as a potential bridge across the moderate, liberal and progressive factions — as candidates like Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Kamala Harris and Sen. Cory Booker are trying to do.

But the former governor faces significant hurdles to raise enormous amounts of money quickly and to build an organization in the traditional early voting states that most of his rivals have focused on for the past year. And he'll have to pivot to the expensive and logistically daunting Super Tuesday contests, when voters in more than a dozen states and territories

head to the polls. Bloomberg's team has said they will skip the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina to focus on the Super Tuesday roster.

It's also a near certainty that Patrick — and possibly Bloomberg — wouldn't make a Democratic debate stage until January, if at all, because of debate rules set by the party.

Those dynamics left some prominent Democrats questioning Patrick's viability, while some existing campaigns privately offered outright mockery and derision.

"Stop. We have enough candidates," said Kathy Sullivan, a Democratic National Committee member from New Hampshire, which hosts the party's first presidential primary following the Iowa caucuses.

Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa, whose state boasts the

rank-and-file Democrats see Biden, Warren and others as unable to take down President Donald Trump.

Besides, Hinojosa said, "most of the people you need to build out a campaign have already chosen sides."

A former managing director for Bain Capital, Patrick has close ties to Wall Street donors. As the first black governor of Massachusetts and only the nation's second elected black governor since Reconstruction, Patrick also could run as a historic boundary breaker trying to dent Biden's support among African Americans — though Harris and Booker, the only two black Democrats in the Senate, have been unable to do that thus far.

A Biden aide confirmed that Patrick had talked to Biden in recent days about the possibility of entering the race, though it wasn't clear Wednesday whether the two men had talked since Patrick had decided that he would run. A Booker aide said Wednesday that Patrick had not called the New Jersey senator. □

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AP Exclusive: FBI eyes how Pennsylvania approved pipeline

By **MARC LEVY**
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

The FBI has begun a corruption investigation into how Gov. Tom Wolf's administration came to issue permits for construction on a multibillion-dollar pipeline project to carry highly volatile natural gas liquids across Pennsylvania, The Associated Press has learned.

FBI agents have interviewed current or former state employees in recent weeks about the Mariner East project and the construction permits, according to three people who have direct knowledge of the agents' line of questioning.

All three spoke on condition of anonymity because they said they could not speak publicly about the investigation.

The focus of the agents' questions involves the permitting of the pipeline, whether Wolf and his administration forced environmental protection staff to approve construction permits and whether Wolf or his administration received anything in return, those people say.

The Mariner East pipelines are owned by Texas-based Energy Transfer LP, a multibillion-dollar firm that owns sprawling interests in oil and gas pipelines and storage and processing facilities. At a price tag of nearly \$3 billion, it is one of the largest construction projects, if not the largest, in Pennsylvania history.

However, the construction has spurred millions of dollars in fines, several temporary shutdown orders, lawsuits, protests and investi-

gations. When construction permits were approved in 2017, environmental advocacy groups accused Wolf's administration of pushing through incomplete permits that violated the law.

Wolf's administration declined comment on the investigation Tuesday. In the past, Wolf and his administration have said the permits contained strong environmental protections and that the Department of Environmental Protection wasn't forced to issue the permits.

An Energy Transfer spokeswoman said the company had not been contacted by the FBI about the Mariner East.

The chief federal prosecutor in Harrisburg, U.S. Attorney David Freed, declined comment.

The Mariner East project, along with the overhaul of the Marcus Hook refinery and export terminal near Philadelphia, have had the support of leading public officials and business trade groups.

Wolf himself has said that the pipeline's economic benefits would outweigh the potential environmental harm, and that the Mariner East would be part of a distribution system that the industry needed.

The state's building trades unions have seen a huge influx of work on the Mariner East pipelines and Marcus Hook. Exploration firms drilling in the booming Marcellus Shale and Utica Shale fields shipping natural gas liquids through Mariner East pipelines and Marcus Hook have helped the U.S. become the world's lead-



In this Oct. 22, 2019 file photo, pipes lay along a construction site on the Mariner East pipeline in a residential neighborhood in Exton, Pa.

Associated Press

ing ethane exporter. The roughly 300-mile (480-kilometer) Mariner East 1 was originally built in the 1930s to transport gasoline westward from Marcus Hook. It was renovated and, in 2014, began carrying natural gas liquids eastward to the refinery from southwestern Pennsylvania's drilling fields.

Construction permit applications were submitted in 2015 for two wider pipelines, the 350-mile-long (563-kilometer) Mariner East 2 and 2x, designed for the same purpose, but stretching farther, through West Virginia's northern panhandle and into Ohio.

Both were projected to be open in 2017. But Mariner East 2 began operating in late December, and Mariner East 2X could be complete in 2020.

The pipelines run past houses, parks and schools

in southeastern Pennsylvania, and have been met with protests by alarmed neighbors worried that one leak could ignite a deadly explosion. Sinkholes along the pipelines' route have opened on lawns and construction has contami-

nated streams and private water wells.

Meanwhile, county and state prosecutors are investigating the pipeline.

Chester County's district attorney, Tom Hogan, opened an investigation last December. □

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Justice Dept. rolls out new program to combat gun violence

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr announced a new initiative Wednesday that would better enforce the U.S. gun background check system, coordinate state and federal gun cases and ensure prosecutors quickly update databases to show when a defendant can't possess a firearm because of mental health issues.

The push, known as Project Guardian, was unveiled at a news conference in Memphis, Tennessee, alongside officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, on the same day public impeachment hearings against President Donald Trump began in Washington.

As part of the program, U.S. prosecutors will coordinate with state and local law enforcement officials to consider potential federal charges when a suspect is arrested for weapons possession, is believed to have used a gun to commit a violent crime or drug-trafficking offense or is suspected of being a violent gang member.

"Gun crime remains a pervasive problem in too many communities across America," Barr said in a statement.

The program "will strengthen our efforts to reduce gun violence by allowing the federal government and our state and local partners to better target offenders who use guns in crimes and those who try to buy guns illegally," Barr said.

During the news conference, Barr said discussions about any new legislation



In this July 8, 2019, file photo, U.S. Attorney General William Barr speaks during a tour of a federal prison in Edgefield, S.C.

Associated Press

tied to the project have been sidetracked due to the impeachment process on Capitol Hill. He said Congress has been asked for more resources, including more ATF agents and U.S. marshals.

"We are going forward with all the operational steps that we can take that do not require legislative action," Barr said.

The initiative requires agents in charge of ATF offices across the country to either create new guidelines or review the protocols already in place to bring federal charges against people who lie in order to obtain a gun from a firearms dealer. Prosecutors will particularly focus on offenders who have violent backgrounds, are gang members or who have faced domestic violence charges.

U.S. attorney's offices would also be required to quickly input information about people who can't own guns for mental health reason into federal databases. The attorney general is also encouraging U.S. attorneys across the country to adopt programs that could help disrupt potential threats and consider recommending court-ordered mental health treatment, in some cases, for defendants found to be ineligible to own firearms for mental health reasons.

The federal government has come under scrutiny in recent years for failing to prevent some mass shooters from buying guns because of lapses in the background check system. In 2018, there were more than 26 million background checks conducted and fewer than 100,000 people

failed. The vast majority were for a criminal conviction and just over 6,000 were rejected for a mental health issue.

Federal law defines nine categories that would prohibit someone from being legally allowed to own or possess a firearm. They include being convicted of any felony charge or a misdemeanor domestic violence, being subject to a restraining order or active warrants, being dishonorably discharged from the military, being addicted to drugs, renouncing your U.S. citizenship or being in the country illegally or being involuntarily committed to a mental health institution or being found by a court to be "a mental defective." A man who killed nine black parishioners at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina,

in June 2015, was able to buy his gun even though he has admitted to possessing drugs and a gunman who killed 26 people at a church in Texas was able to pass a background check because the Air Force had failed to report his criminal history to the FBI, which maintains the background check database.

A gunman who went on a rampage in West Texas in September, killing seven people, illustrated that even those who are barred from owning guns can skirt the law. That gunman had obtained his AR-style rifle through a private sale, allowing him to evade a federal background check that blocked him from getting a gun in 2014 due to a "mental health issue," a law enforcement official told The Associated Press at the time.

Barr said background checks would be enforced "with a vengeance."

The new program will also help enhance ATF's crime gun intelligence efforts, which the agency uses to identify and target criminals and identify where they get their guns.

Agents will work alongside prosecutors to "cut the pipeline of crime guns from those violent individuals who seek to terrorize our communities," said Regina Lombardo, ATF's acting deputy director.

Barr noted that Memphis has about five times the national average rate of violent crime. Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings said violent crime in the Mississippi River city is way too high. □

NYPD kept database of juveniles' fingerprints, violating law

NEW YORK (AP) — Until recently, New York City police secretly kept fingerprints of children arrested as juveniles on file permanently in a department database — an illegal practice that has raised alarms about the lengths the nation's largest police force has taken to keep tabs on the city's youth.

The public defender orga-

nization that uncovered the yearslong practice pressured the New York Police Department to acknowledge it and then threatened legal action to make it stop, citing a state law barring local police from stockpiling juveniles' fingerprints. Now, after years of wrangling and resistance, the NYPD said Wednesday it has purged all juvenile fin-

gerprints records from the database and will no longer keep them indefinitely. It has also issued bulletins to its 36,000 officers advising them of procedural changes meant to ensure compliance with the law.

The Legal Aid Society said the database contained the fingerprints of tens of thousands of youth.

"This illegal database has

existed for years, infringing on young New Yorkers' rights, in clear violation of the law," said Dawne Mitchell, the attorney-in-charge of the Legal Aid Society's juvenile rights practice. The organization called on city lawmakers to hold an immediate hearing on the police department's use of surveillance and data collection tech-

nology. It also wants a law passed to give the public more oversight over such tools. Beside the fingerprint database, the Legal Aid Society's lawyer representing juvenile and adult defendants say they're also concerned about police use of facial recognition and DNA collection, as well as its database of suspected gang members. □

Bishop who investigated sex abuse accused of sex abuse

By MICHAEL REZENDES
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — A Roman Catholic bishop named by Pope Francis to investigate the church's response to clergy sexual abuse in Buffalo, New York, has himself been accused of sexual abuse of a child, an attorney for the alleged victim notified the church this week.

The attorney informed Catholic officials in New Jersey that he is preparing a lawsuit on behalf of a client who says he was molested by Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio in the mid-1970s, when DiMarzio was a parish priest in Jersey City.

DiMarzio said there is no truth to the accusation. "I am just learning about this allegation," he said in a statement Tuesday to The Associated Press. "In my nearly 50-year ministry as a priest, I have never engaged in unlawful or inappropriate behavior and I emphatically deny this allegation. I am confident I will be fully vindicated."

In a letter sent Monday to the church's Newark, New Jersey, archdiocese, Boston attorney Mitchell Garabedian said 56-year-old Mark Matzek alleges he was repeatedly abused by DiMarzio and a second priest, the late Rev. Albert Mark, when he was an altar boy at St. Nicholas Church and a student at St. Nicholas School.

Last month, Pope Francis tapped DiMarzio to investigate the church's Buffalo Diocese, where Bishop Richard Malone has come under fire for his handling of a burgeoning clergy abuse scandal that has roiled the diocese and prompted calls for his resignation. "The investigation of the diocese of Buffalo by Bishop DiMarzio is tainted because of these allegations," Garabedian said in an interview with the AP. "There needs to be a truly neutral investigator to determine whether Bishop Malone should resign," adding that the investigation should be led by a law enforcement agency.



This Nov. 14, 2007 file photo shows Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y. speaking during a news conference at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops fall meeting in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Adriana Rodriguez, press secretary for the Brooklyn Diocese, said DiMarzio has completed his report on the Buffalo Diocese and has submitted it to the Vatican. DiMarzio and Malone are in Rome this week for a previously scheduled visit of New York bishops to the Holy See.

Garabedian said the notice he sent to the Newark Archdiocese briefly describes Matzek's allegations and the damage he has allegedly suffered, while demanding \$20 million in compensation.

Maria Margiotta, the spokeswoman for the Newark Archdiocese, said it has received Garabedian's letter and reported Matzek's

allegations to law enforcement.

Garabedian told the AP he plans to file the lawsuit on Matzek's behalf next month, after New Jersey opens a two-year "look back" period in which sex abuse victims will be permitted to file lawsuits without regard to the statute of limitations, which typically limits the amount of time in which an alleged victim may file suit.

DiMarzio completed his review of the Buffalo Diocese, known as an "apostolic visitation," last month. He said he made three trips to the diocese over seven days and interviewed nearly 80 clergymen and parishioners. □

Youtuber accused of abusing kids for poor performance dies

PHOENIX (AP) — An Arizona woman accused of abusing her adopted children who starred on her popular YouTube channel has died, authorities said Wednesday.

Maricopa Police Department spokesman Ricardo Alvarado said Machel Hobson died Tuesday at a Phoenix-area hospital. Her death was ruled natural and there was no crime suspected in it, according to Scottsdale police.

Hobson, 48, had been accused of starving her children and using pepper spray to punish them when they didn't perform to her liking in the skits that garnered thousands of online

views. She had been hospitalized with "extreme health issues" at the end of May and released from jail custody on June 12 because of her diagnosis, Pinal County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Lauren Reimer said in a statement. Authorities said she hadn't been hospitalized since then, but it's not known where she was before she was admitted again.

A judge in August declared Hobson incompetent to stand trial, the Arizona Republic reported. Hobson's criminal case was on hold while authorities worked to restore Hobson to competency to stand trial.



This file booking photo provided by Pinal County Sheriff's Office shows Machel Hobson.

Associated Press

Authorities have said Hobson locked up children in a closet for days without food, water or access to a bathroom.

YouTube terminated Hobson's channel after determining the channel violated its guidelines. Episodes featured skits about children stealing cookies and a boy with superpowers.

The Pinal County Attorney's Office, the agency prosecuting Hobson, did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. But county attorney Kent Volkmer said in a news conference that he was saddened by the death, according to the Maricopa Monitor. He said he wasn't able to elaborate on Hobson's medical condition. □

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Venice 'on its knees' after second-worst flood ever recorded

By COLLEEN BARRY
LUCA BRUNO

Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years prompted calls Wednesday to better protect the historic city from rising sea levels as officials calculated hundreds of millions of euros in damage.

The water reached 1.87 meters (6.14 feet) above average sea level Tuesday, the second-highest level ever recorded in the city and just 7 centimeters (2½ inches) lower than the historic 1966 flood. Another wave of exceptionally high water followed Wednesday.

"Venice is on its knees," Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter. "St. Mark's Basilica has sustained serious damage, like the entire city and its islands."

One death was blamed on the flooding, on the barrier island of Pellestrina. A man in his 70s was apparently electrocuted when he tried



Tourist pull their suitcases along catwalks set up during a high tide, in Venice, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

to start a pump in his dwelling, said Danny Carrella, an official on the island of 3,500 inhabitants.

In Venice, the crypt beneath St. Mark's Basilica was inundated for only the second time in its history.

Damage was also reported at the Ca' Pesaro modern art gallery, where a short circuit set off a fire, and at La Fenice theater, where authorities turned off electricity as a precaution after the control room was flood-

ed. Italy's culture minister, Dario Franceschini, said no damage had been reported to art collections in museums throughout the city. Many sites remained closed to tourists, and La Fenice can-

celed concerts Wednesday and Thursday evening. Tourists floated suitcases through St. Mark's Square, where officials removed walkways to prevent them from drifting away. Wooden boards that shop and hotel owners have placed on doors in previous floods couldn't hold back the water.

The water was so high that nothing less than thigh-high boots afforded protection, and one man was even filmed swimming bare-chested in St. Mark's Square during what appeared to be the height of the flood.

"I have often seen St. Mark's Square covered with water," Venice's patriarch, Monsignor Francesco Moraglia, told reporters. "Yesterday there were waves that seemed to be the seashore."

Brugnaro said damage would reach hundreds of millions of euros. He called on Rome to declare a state of emergency. □

Auditors urge EU to quickly fix migrant policy shortfalls

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Auditors on Wednesday urged the European Union to improve its approach to easing migrant pressure on Greece and Italy as people languish in camps on the Greek Islands and to draw lessons from its shortcomings before a new crisis hits. Well over 1 million people arrived in Europe in 2015, most of them fleeing conflict in Syria. Greece and Italy were overwhelmed, and the arrivals sparked a political crisis as nations bickered over who should take charge and whether to help.

As pressure from member countries built for a quick response, the EU came up with a series of stop-gap emergency measures and funds. Greece has received around 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) since then; Italy around 1 billion (\$1.1 billion).

Unveiling a report Wednesday on the EU's migrant



Migrants wait to board on buses after their disembarkation at the port of Elefsina, near Athens, on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

response, European Court of Auditors member Leo Brincat said now is the time "for stock-taking, putting the house in order, and even taking the necessary remedial action."

"It's better to take action at a time when there is no peaking of the migration crisis," Brincat said, because poor timing "is bound to lead to knee-jerk reactions, and knee-jerk re-

actions don't always lead to the most judicious actions."

Among the EU measures was a quota scheme initially meant to share 160,000 refugees in Greece and

Italy with their European partners. But member countries only agreed to relocate 98,256 of them, and in the end, just 34,705 people found new homes. The auditors said the schemes "underperformed" chiefly because the Italian and Greek authorities were unable to quickly identify candidates or encourage them to apply to be moved.

Fast-track asylum processing meant to identify eligible people in the Greek islands for return to Turkey was taking on average 215 days last year, instead of just a few days, the report said.

The auditors said some people in the Samos camp had been there waiting for two years, and that others who arrived in 2018 were given interview dates as late as 2023.

In Italy, asylum applications lodged in 2015 took on average over four years to reach the final appeal stage. □



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Ex-Tory minister advises public to vote against party

LONDON (AP) — A former Conservative Party Cabinet minister said Wednesday that giving the party a majority in next month's election would be "disastrous" for the U.K., in the latest example of how the Brexit debate has shattered traditional party alliances in this deeply divided country. David Gauke, who served as justice secretary until July, said an outright victory for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's party would likely result in Britain leaving the European Union without an agreement ensuring unfettered trade with the bloc. "A Conservative majority after the next General Election will take us in the direction of a very hard Brexit and in all likelihood at the end of 2020 we will leave the implementation period without a deal with the EU ... in effect on no-deal



Britain' Prime Minister Boris Johnson raises a pint of beer, as he meets with military veterans at the Lych Gate Tavern in Wolverhampton, England, Monday, Nov. 11, 2019 as part of the General Election campaign trail. Britain goes to the polls on Dec. 12.

Associated Press

terms," Gauke told the BBC. "And that I believe would be disastrous for the pros-

perity of this country, whole sectors would become unviable."

The comments underscore the upheaval underway in British politics, triggered

largely by differing views on how and whether Britain should leave the EU. Many traditional Conservative voters, once attracted by the party's business-friendly policies and fiscal restraint, now oppose its focus on severing ties with the EU. The Labour Party is also split over Brexit, as well as the left-wing policies of leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Last week, a former member of Labour's inner circle took the extraordinary step of urging voters to support Johnson. Ian Austin, an aide to Gordon Brown, the party's last prime minister, said Labour had been poisoned by "anti-Jewish racism" under Corbyn. Those splits are providing an opening for smaller parties such as the Liberal Democrats and Greens, who have united behind the goal of stopping Brexit. □

German parliament committee ousts far-right chairman

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The German parliament's legal affairs committee on Wednesday ousted its chairman, a member of the far-right Alternative for Germany party, amid anger over a string of inflammatory comments he had made. The committee voted 37-6 Wednesday to remove chairman Stephan Brandner — the first time in the parliament's 70-year history that a committee chairman has been voted out. Brandner has repeatedly angered lawmakers from other parties over recent

months with broadsides against opponents and his reaction to the killing of two passers-by in a botched attack by a right-wing extremist on a synagogue last month.

That was followed by a tweet railing against an award for singer Udo Lindenberg, who is critical of Alternative for Germany, in which Brandner used the term "Judaslohn" — a biblical reference to the "blood money" Judas Iscariot received for betraying Jesus. Brandner comes from the eastern state of Thuringia, whose regional Alternative

for Germany leader, Bjoern Hoecke, is the party's best-known far-right firebrand.

The general secretary of Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats, Paul Ziemiak, tweeted that Brandner, "Hoecke's Berlin outpost," had been "unworthy" as chairman and that "his anti-Semitism is intolerable." Brandner has portrayed himself as a victim of unfounded accusations. On Wednesday, he accused other parties of "naked hypocrisy" and declared that "this is not a defeat for us." □



Stephan Brandner of the German Alternative for Germany (AfD) party delivers a statement prior to a meeting of the legal affairs committee of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Nov 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Saudi Arabia, Yemen's Houthi rebels in indirect peace talks

By **AHMED AL-HAJ**
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed rebels are holding indirect, behind-the-scenes talks to end the devastating five-year war in Yemen, officials from both sides have told The Associated Press. The negotiations are taking place with Oman, a Gulf Arab country that borders both Yemen and Saudi Arabia, as mediator. Oman has positioned itself as a quiet mediator in the past and in a possible sign the back-channel talks could be stepping up, Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman arrived in Muscat on Monday.

The two sides have communicated via video conference over the past two months, according to Gamal Amer, a negotiator for the Yemeni rebels known as Houthis. They have also talked through European intermediaries, according to three Houthi officials. Yemen remains a divided country. The Iran-backed Houthis have controlled the capital, Sanaa, and much of the north since 2014. The Saudi-led military coalition, which entered the war in 2015, is fighting on behalf of Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his internationally recognized government. The Oman-mediated talks



In this Sept. 21, 2019 file photo, Shiite Houthi tribesmen hold their weapons as they chant slogans during a tribal gathering showing support for the Houthi movement, in Sanaa, Yemen.

Associated Press

began in September, after a Houthi-claimed drone struck a key crude processing plant in Saudi Arabia — the world's largest — and dramatically cut into global oil supplies. The United States blamed Iran, which denied involvement. The attack laid bare the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's oil installations and appears to have propelled Riyadh toward negotiating an end to the increasingly costly war. The kingdom has also faced a growing backlash against its role in the Yemen war, including from the U.S. Congress. The current talks focus on

interim goals, such as re-opening Yemen's main international airport in Sanaa, shut down by the Saudi-led coalition in 2016. Also under discussion is a buffer zone along the Yemen-Saudi border in areas under Houthi control. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, a former Yemeni foreign minister, told the AP from Oman that the Saudis' main concerns include dismantling the Houthis ballistic and drone capabilities and the kingdom's border security. The Saudis are looking for assurances the Houthis will distance themselves from Shiite power Iran, the Sunni

kingdom's archrival. Riyadh has long feared the Houthis could establish an Iranian presence along the Saudi-Yemen border. These talks could pave the way for more high-profile negotiations early next year, said one of the Houthi officials. All officials, with the exception of Amer and al-Qirbi, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters on backchannel negotiations. The recent rapprochement — if materialized — could put an end to a war that has killed over 100,000 peo-

ple, destroyed Yemen's infrastructure, displaced millions, and pushed the country's 30 million people into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. However, it remains to be seen how future peace talks could shape a post-war Yemen, deeply fragmented along many fault lines during the conflict.

Last week, a senior Saudi official told a group of reporters in Washington that, "there is a sense that we need to move to resolution of this conflict." He said the ongoing talks are also focusing on prisoner exchanges between the warring sides.

There are signs all involved in the fighting are seeking a way out. The United Arab Emirates, a member of the Saudi-led coalition, has tried to extricate itself from the conflict and last month said it was pulling out of Yemen, after spending years financing and training militias and separatist political factions in southern Yemen. Talks between the Yemeni rebels and the Saudis are not new.

The two sides struck a cease-fire in 2016 after a meeting in the southern Saudi region of Asir but the truce later fell apart. Amer, the Houthi negotiator, says an exchange of messages between the two sides never stopped and that they "kept a window open" for dialogue. □

At least 12 killed in Slovakia bus crash including children



Firefighters, police and rescuers work the scene of a traffic accident involving a bus and a lorry on a road near the village of Malanta near Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce, Slovakia, Wednesday Nov. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — A bus collided with a truck in Slovakia on Wednesday, killing at least 12 people and injuring at least 17 more, officials said. Online news site tvnoviny.sk reported that the bus was carrying high school students. Health Minister Andrea Kalavská, who was at the site, said four of the people killed were children, but did not release their ages. The accident occurred in Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the capital Bratislava at around 1 p.m.

(1200 GMT) police and firefighters said. "At this moment, our thoughts are with the parents who lost their children," Slovak President Zuzana Caputová said. "We all hope that the number of the victims won't be rising." Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini called it a "horrible tragedy" and said he was cutting short his visit to Cyprus and heading to the scene. He offered his condolences to the relatives of the victims. Firefighters originally put the number of dead at 13

but later lowered it to 12. The injured are treated in nearby hospitals. Photos from the scene published by the police showed an overturned truck on the road surrounded by gray stones it had been carrying as cargo and the bus on its side in a roadside ditch. The Arriva company said its bus was traveling from Nitra, near the scene of the accident, to the town of Jelenec. It didn't say how many people were on-board. It said it is fully cooperating with the rescuers. Further details were not immediately available. □

North Korea issues warning over US-South Korea drills

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea's supreme decision-making body lashed out Wednesday at planned U.S.-South Korean military drills and warned that the United States will face a "bigger threat and harsh suffering" if it ignores North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline to salvage nuclear talks.

In a statement carried by state media, an unidentified spokesperson for the North's State Affairs Commission said the drills would violate agreements between Kim and President Donald Trump on improving bilateral relations and compel North Korea to raise its war readiness.

Kim is chairman of the commission, which he established in 2016 following years of efforts to consolidate his power and centralize governance.

The statement is North Korea's latest expression of displeasure over the military drills and slow pace of



In this Sept. 18, 2017, file photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers, F-35B stealth fighter jets and South Korean F-15K fighter jets fly over the Korean Peninsula during joint drills.

Associated Press

nuclear negotiations with Washington. The talks have stalled over disagreements on disarmament steps and sanctions relief.

North Korea has also

ramped up its missile tests in recent months and experts say it is likely to continue weapons displays to pressure Washington as Kim's deadline nears for

the Trump administration to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal.

The spokesperson said annual U.S.-South Korea military drills are continuing to

cause a "vicious cycle" in relations between the U.S. and North Korea. "The United States must show self-restraint and refrain from careless actions at a sensitive time when the joint exercises can send the political situation of the Korean Peninsula back to square one," the statement said.

"If the current flow in the political situation doesn't change, the United States will soon face a bigger threat and harsh suffering that will force them to acknowledge their mistake." Last week, senior North Korean diplomat Kwon Jong Gun said a joint aerial exercise planned by the U.S. and South Korea in coming weeks amounted to "throwing a wet blanket over the spark" of nuclear negotiations that are "on the verge of extinction." Kwon said North Korea's patience was nearing its limit and that it will "never remain an onlooker" to "reckless military moves." □

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Cambodia says it defeated opposition effort to topple govt

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

(AP) — Cambodia's government claimed victory Wednesday in its jousting with exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who was unable to meet his self-imposed deadline to return to the country in an attempt to oust Prime Minister Hun Sen.

A government statement Wednesday night said it had fully defeated what it called an attempted coup d'etat by "rebel" Sam Rainsy.

It said that public order and security had been firmly assured throughout the country.

Sam Rainsy had said he and exiled colleagues from his banned Cambodia National Rescue Party would return Saturday to lead a nonviolent mass movement to unseat Hun Sen, who has held power for 34 years.

Hun Sen's government barred his entry and advised airlines and neighboring countries to block



Japanese Ambassador Masahiro Mikami, front left, shakes hands with the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party's President Kem Sokha before a meeting at his house in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

his travel. He was allowed into Malaysia, and says he still plans to return home, though he has not set a date.

Sam Rainsy appeared to still have trouble traveling Wednesday, when he did not fly to Indonesia as

scheduled. He said on social media that he had missed his flight and had rescheduled it for Thursday. Malaysia Airlines unofficially said he had been barred from boarding a flight on the request of Indonesian authorities, then

later said he had not been barred. Indonesian immigration office spokesman Sam Fernando earlier said there was no "prohibited person to enter" instruction or arrival blacklist with Sam Rainsy's name.

In a turnaround, Cambo-

dian Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng said on Saturday after Sam Rainsy failed to return that he would now be allowed to enter the country, but would have to face several convictions and pending court cases, all of which Sam Rainsy says are politically motivated.

Wednesday's government statement said a small number of people remain deceived by Sam Rainsy and his group, including some inside Cambodia and others abroad.

"The government would like to appeal to them to come back and stop believing Sam Rainsy and his group, and they can live freely and enjoy life with their families without fear of reprisal by the government," it said.

Cambodia mobilized its security forces and arrested scores of opposition supporters in its effort to thwart Sam Rainsy's return, which was intended to be by land across the border with Thailand. □

Economy in mind, Bolsonaro softens tone on China

By **DAVID BILLER**
DIANE JEANTET
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — What a difference a year makes.

In the months before last year's presidential election in Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro described China as predatory and thumbed his nose at the Chinese government by visiting Taiwan, Beijing's archrival.

Now, as a more pragmatic president, Bolsonaro is welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping to an international summit that begins Wednesday in Brasilia, the capital.

The first item on the agenda for Bolsonaro, a far-right leader who has sometimes tried to hang the communist label on his political rivals in Brazil, is a bilateral meeting with Xi. It's a sign of how Bolsonaro views China as critical to his ambitions to rejuvenate Brazil's sluggish economy.

Gone is last year's fiery campaign trail rhetoric about China being a rapacious power intent on exploiting Brazilian resources. China is, after all, Brazil's biggest trading partner.

As China expanded rapidly in the 2000s, eventually becoming the world's second largest economy, it relied on commodities from producers. Brazil, Latin America's largest economy, shipped soybeans, iron ore and crude to satisfy China's



People walk past the BRICS Business Council sign prior the 11th edition of the BRICS Summit, in Brasilia, Brazil, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019.

Associated Press

voracious appetite. Those three products account for more than 80% of Brazil's exports to China.

Xi's visit for a meeting of leaders of the BRICS emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) is his first to Brazil since 2014.

But his relationship with Bolsonaro has already been blossoming.

Just last month, Bolsonaro traveled to Beijing for economic and other accords, including the exemption of Chinese nationals from Brazil visa requirements. Xi received him at his car and they walked side-by-side on a long, red carpet.

"Bolsonaro discovered how

important China is to Brazil and that he can do business with China. And he's more or less happy with that," said Mauricio Santoro, professor of international relations at Rio de Janeiro's state university, UERJ.

Before he became president, Bolsonaro praised the U.S. and President Donald Trump. He often said China can buy from Brazil, but not buy Brazil itself — rhetoric that continued for a while after he took office Jan. 1. The hostile remarks didn't last, though.

Brazil is dependent on foreign investment, especially from China.

Confirmed Chinese investments in Brazil between

2007 and 2018 totaled almost \$60 billion, more than any other Latin American country, according to the Brazil-China Business Council, a Brazilian research center.

Investments faltered in 2018 ahead of Brazil's election, part of a broader decline stemming from investor caution.

After Bolsonaro won the presidency, he took his first trip abroad to the U.S., then in the midst of a growing trade dispute with China. But Brazil didn't get caught in the middle.

"Brazil has all the reasons to work with both countries and not pick sides," said Pepe Zhang, associ-

ate China director at the Washington-based Atlantic Council. "So far, it's doing a good job."

In August, amid Western criticism of Brazil's handling of fires raging in the Amazon, China defended Brazil. Bolsonaro described China's support as "priceless."

As Brazil-Chinese diplomacy advances, there are delicate issues to navigate. The U.S., for example, is pressuring the Brazilian government to exclude Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei from its auction next year to provide a 5G network.

The U.S. State Department says that Huawei poses cybersecurity risks and that it will review the way it shares intelligence about Venezuela with Brazil if Huawei is allowed to provide 5G service.

The U.S. and Brazil consider Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to be illegitimate and want him to resign.

China, eager for repayment of the billions of dollars in oil-backed loans it extended to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's socialist administration, continues to support his regime. Bolsonaro knows he won't find common ground with Xi on Venezuela when they meet, and will likely focus on luring more Chinese investment and trade, said Santoro, the international relations professor. □

Venezuela embassy in Brazil occupied by Guaidó supporters



A supporter of the Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed interim president of Venezuela Juan Guaido, right, confronts a supporters of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, outside the Venezuelan Embassy, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — A group of people backing Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó occupied the nation's embassy in Brazil's capital, Brasilia, on Wednesday.

An official from President Nicolás Maduro's government said some 20 people forcibly invaded the embassy early Wednesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to speak publicly.

The Venezuelan representative to Brazil named by

Guaidó said in a statement that embassy employees opened the gates to let sympathizers in.

Brazil and more than 50 other nations recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate president.

At least two left-leaning Brazilian lawmakers were also within the embassy. Some 20 Brazilian military police officers were stationed outside, where Brazilian sympathizers from both sides of the political spectrum argued with one another and had several physical altercations.

Security forces were trying to resolve the situation peacefully, according to a statement from the Brazilian president's institutional security office. The statement said President Jair Bolsonaro had no knowledge of the group's plans to occupy the embassy.

Wednesday is the first day of the Brazil-hosted summit for BRICS nations, which also include Russia, India, China and South Africa. Brazil is the only one of those countries to recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's leader. □

LOCAL



Say thank you in Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today gives you the opportunity to express your gratitude to your blessings. Send us a small Thanksgiving message (maximum 10 words) with/without picture and we will publish it in our edition on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th. Please email to: news@arubatoday.com. Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day.

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What Is It About?

Thanksgiving is on Thursday November 28th, the day before Black Friday. Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved

by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (because there are sometimes five Thursdays in the month).

While Thanksgiving is one of the biggest events in the American calendar, for Europeans it's always been a little bit of a mystery. What is it actually about? The most exposure many of us get to the holiday is by watching American television series' Thanksgiving-themed episodes - and even those tend to leave us in the dark.

Many Americans think of it as just as important as Christmas. In fact, more people in the US celebrate Thanksgiving than they do Christmas. Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday in a country that officially separates church and state so this probably makes sense. Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 where refugees from England, known as Pilgrims, invited the local Native Americans to a harvest feast after they experienced a successful season of produce growth. But it



wasn't just the economic drive that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper. It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about. The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God - even our sorrows. Their Thanksgiving tradition was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace.

Although the turkey is 'the face' of Thanksgiving nowadays, the first Thanksgiving did not even include turkey, but rather a three-day feast of goose, lobster, cod and deer. Besides turkey people love stuffing and pies - pumpkin, pecan, apple and sweet potato as the traditional desserts.

Why is American football relevant to Thanksgiving? In 1934, the University of Detroit hosted the first Thanksgiving Day football game between Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears. The game became the first-ever network broadcast event in the US and was so popular that a Thanksgiving Day football game continues today - and Detroit has played every year since.

Today people from Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia continue the Thanksgiving tradition in their homes - or when on vacation in their holiday destination. Aruba Today wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving. ☐

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EAGLE BEACH —Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitor of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassador at her home away from home.

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Sinterklaas is on his way to Aruba

ORANJESTAD — It's the time of the year again all the children of Aruba haven been waiting for. The arrival of Sinterklaas, November 17th. The holy man coming all the way from Spain bringing gifts for all the good children of Aruba. It surely is an exciting time for the kids.

Based on St. Nicolas, the patron saint of children, Sinterklaas (the name is a contraction of Sint Nikolaas) is a legendary Christmas figure celebrated in the Netherlands. Although similar to Santa Claus in that he is an older man with a full, white beard who wears red, Sinterklaas is a more serious figure, donning a bishop's headdress and carrying a long, curled shepherd's staff.

The Dutch celebrate the Feast of Sinterklaas honoring the life of St. Nicholas, and although St. Nicholas is always shown wearing his bishop's attire, the Dutch tend to see him as a kindly old man, rather than as a Catholic saint. The result is that Sinterklaas is celebrated by Dutch people of all ages and beliefs, without any real religious connotations.

The Feast of Sinterklaas

This real-life Santa Claus was born to wealthy parents in the third century in Patara (the area was Greek at the time, but is now part of Turkey). He spent his life giving away his money to the poor and doing good deeds. He died on December 6th, and it is this date that is commemorated—the Feast of Sinterklaas is held on Dec. 5th and 6th. The holiday,

consisting of St. Nicholas's Eve and St. Nicholas's Day, is observed by exchanging gifts and chocolate letters (of the recipient's initial). It is also customary to make good-natured fun of your loved ones, by way of humorous poetry written by the giver, and offering the infamous "surprise," which is a (homemade) gag gift that hides another present inside. In Holland, it is more common to give presents on Sinterklaas than at Christmas, which remains a day to spend with family and attend church. The feast is celebrated annually with the giving of gifts



on St. Nicholas' Eve (5 December) in the Netherlands and on the morning of 6 December, Saint Nicholas Day, in Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France (French Flanders, Lorraine and Artois). The tradition is also celebrated in territories of the former Dutch Empire, including Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Suriname.

Zwarte Piet

Sinterklaas is assisted by many mischievous helpers with black faces and colourful Moorish dresses. These companions are called Zwarte Piet ("Black Pete"). Zwarte Piet first

appeared in print as the nameless servant of Saint Nicholas in Sint-Nikolaas en zijn knecht ("St. Nicholas and His Servant/Apprentice"), published in 1850 by Amsterdam schoolteacher Jan Schenkman; however, the tradition appears to date back at least as far as the early 19th Century.[4] Zwarte Piet's colourful dress is based on 16th-century noble attire, with a ruff (lace collar) and a feathered cap. He is typically depicted carrying a bag which contains candy for the children. The Zwarte Pieten toss their candy around, a tradition supposedly originating

in the story of Saint Nicholas saving three young girls from prostitution by tossing golden coins through their window at night to pay their dowries.

The Foods of Sinterklaas

At the Feast of Sinterklaas, the Dutch indulge in a variety of sweets including cookies, candies, and bread. Traditional recipes are speculaas (spiced cookies), kruidnoten (mini spiced cookies, also called ginger nuts), pepernoten (small aniseed flavored honey cookies), taai-taai (aniseed and honey flavored figurines), almond filled pastries, chocolate letters, and duivekater (a festive sweet bread). Mulled wine, called bishopswijn, is also enjoyed.

Waving a Carrot

Dutch children believe that Sinterklaas writes down whether they've been naughty or nice in his red book. Sinterklaas rides a white horse, and the children put carrots in their



shoes for his horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for presents if they were good.

Sinterklaas Vs. Santa

It is said that Sinterklaas was the precursor of Santa Claus. Historians believe that Dutch and German settlers took the tradition with them to America. There, his Catholic garb was gradually transformed into the jolly non-sectarian red suit with the white fur trim we are all so familiar with. Additionally, his lithe frame gave way to a well-padded potbelly, and his trusty white steed was traded in for a troupe of reindeer. Ei-

ther way, both Sinterklaas and Santa Claus stand for the generosity of spirit and kindness to children.

Sinterklaas will be arriving in Aruba on Sunday November 17th 2019 at the Harbor Arena at 10 AM. He will continue in a caravan going down the L.G. Smith Boulevard till the Plaza Libertador Betico Croes where a big welcome party awaits. There will be lots of singing, dancing, storytelling, a show presented by Sinterklaas' helpers and much much more. Come and enjoy a family day and let your children meet Sinterklaas and his Black Piets. □



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Jim and Chris Chartier love Aruba

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Jim and Chris Chartier from Manchester, USA!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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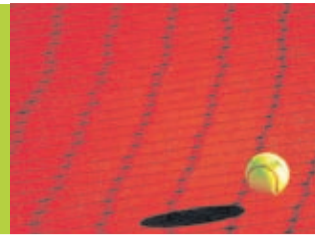


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SPORTS



MLB checking into report '17 Astros stole signs, broke rules

By DAVID BRANDT
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Major League Baseball has expanded its investigation into the Houston Astros after The Athletic website reported the team stole signs during home games in 2017 by using a camera positioned in center field. The report Tuesday quoted pitcher Mike Fiers, who played for the Astros that season, and three other unidentified people with the club. The Astros won the World Series that year — two sources told The Athletic that Houston used the system into the playoffs while another source said the system ended before the postseason. The website said the process was started by a struggling hitter and a coach, neither of whom was identified. The camera at Minute Maid Park was connected to a television monitor in the tunnel between the Astros' dugout and clubhouse, The Athletic said, and team employees or players would communicate expected pitches by banging a trash can to signal off-speed pitches. "I just want the game to be cleaned up a little bit because there are guys who are losing their jobs because they're going in there not knowing," Fiers told the website. The Astros said in a statement the team "has begun an investigation in cooperation with Major League Baseball" and declined additional comment.

Continued on Page 20

BEAR DOWN



Panthers rally from 4 down, beat Bruins 5-4 in SO

Boston Bruins center Joakim Nordstrom (20) smiles after his goal against Florida Panthers goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019.



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after winning a point against Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their ATP World Tour Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019. Associated Press

Nadal saves match point vs. Medvedev for 1st win at ATP Finals

LONDON (AP) — Facing match point at 5-1 down in the third set, Rafael Nadal gave himself about a one-in-a-thousand chance of turning things around against Daniil Medvedev at the ATP Finals.

Those odds turned out to be more than good enough for the top-ranked Spaniard.

Nadal saved that match point with a perfect drop shot and then rallied to beat Medvedev 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (4) Wednesday, keeping alive his chances of advancing from the group stage.

"Today is one of those days that one out of 1,000 you win and it happened today," Nadal said. "In that moment (facing match point), what you think is probably in five minutes you are in the locker room, because that's the more normal thing. In that moment, you play with not much pressure because you are almost lost."

Nadal looked headed for a second straight loss at the season-ending tournament but won five games in a row to go 6-5 up in the deciding set. In the tie-breaker, Medvedev missed a routine forehand to hand Nadal a match point and then sent a backhand just wide. That shot was initially

called in but was overturned by Hawk-Eye after Nadal challenged the decision.

The win gives Nadal a 1-1 record after two round-robin matches, while Medvedev fell to 0-2.

In the late match, Stefanos Tsitsipas beat defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-2 for his second straight win, a result that guarantees him a place in the semifinals.

The other three players all still have a chance of advancing.

Tsitsipas, who is making his debut at the tournament for the world's top eight players after a breakthrough season, broke Zverev for a 5-3 lead in the first set and then twice more to go 5-1 up in the second.

With dozens of Greek flags being waved around the O2 Arena, Tsitsipas then served out the match with an ace.

"Once again, it was not just me out there, but a whole bunch of excited people that came to support me," said Tsitsipas, the first Greek player to qualify for the event. "It was a crew situation."

In a rematch of this year's U.S. Open final, Nadal came out looking much sharper than in his opening loss to Zverev and broke

Medvedev twice in the second set.

But the Russian raced out to a 4-0 lead in the third set and had two more break points in the next game. However, Nadal held and then saved a match point at 30-40 in his next service game with a backhand drop shot at the net.

Medvedev then started making more mistakes while Nadal played like a man with nothing to lose, going for winners all over the court.

"Rafa fought his best, because he could just say 'OK, it's over at 5-1 and just give me the point,' but we all know Rafa is not about this," Medvedev said. "I just need to close out such matches." Nadal's preparations for the ATP Finals were hampered by an abdominal injury that forced him to pull out of the Paris Masters semifinals this month. But he insisted he feels fine physically, and is gradually finding his best game after an error-filled performance against Zverev.

"I have been playing a better level of tennis than the first day in general terms," Nadal said. "Then to win this match is a combination of a lot of things: luck, some mistakes of Daniil, some good moments by myself at the end." □



In this Oct. 11, 2018, file photo, former NFL football quarterback Colin Kaepernick smiles on stage during W.E.B. Du Bois Medal ceremonies at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

Colin Kaepernick plans to audition for NFL teams on Saturday

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football writer

Colin Kaepernick plans to audition for NFL teams on Saturday in a private workout arranged by the league to be held in Atlanta.

The exiled former Pro Bowl quarterback posted on Twitter: "I'm just getting word from my representatives that the NFL league office reached out to them on Saturday. I've been in shape and ready for this for 3 years, can't wait to see the head coaches and GMs on Saturday."

The NFL hasn't confirmed Kaepernick's workout details.

A person familiar with the plans told The Associated Press the league's decision to invite all 32 teams to watch Kaepernick "came out of the blue with no prior communication." The per-

son said Kaepernick's team was given a 2-hour window to accept the invitation

and was denied a request to schedule the tryout on a Tuesday or another Saturday. Kaepernick's representatives have asked the league to provide a rolling list of teams that plan to attend the workout to ensure it's a "legitimate process," according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because details haven't been made public. Kaepernick hasn't played since 2016 with the San Francisco 49ers. He helped start a wave of protests about social and racial injustice that season by kneeling during the national anthem at games.

The NFL in February settled a collusion grievance Kaepernick and former teammate Eric Reid filed against the league. Reid now plays for the Carolina Panthers. □

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Hoffman scores in SO, Panthers rally to beat Bruins 5-4

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Hoffman scored one of four Florida goals in the third period and added the winner in a shootout as the Panthers rallied from a four-goal deficit and beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 on Tuesday night.

Keith Yandle had a goal and two assists for Florida and Sam Montembeault didn't allow a goal after replacing Sergei Bobrovsky at the start of the third period with the Panthers trailing 4-0.

Montembeault finished with 15 saves, six in overtime, and stopped Charlie McAvoy on Boston's last chance in the shootout as the Panthers completed the comeback and gave coach Joel Quenneville career victory No. 899.

Aaron Ekblad and Frank Vatrano also scored for Florida.

David Pastrnak scored his league-leading 16th goal for Boston. Joakim Nordstrom, Anders Bjork and Zdeno Chara also scored. Tuukka Rask made 25 saves.

David Krejci had two assists for Boston, which lost its fourth straight.

CANADIENS 3, BLUE JACKETS 2, SO

MONTREAL (AP) — Jonathan Drouin scored the shootout winner and Montreal rallied to beat Columbus.

Brendan Gallagher and Tomas Tatar scored third-period goals for the Canadiens (10-5-3), who trailed 1-0 after two periods. Carey Price made 33 saves. The Canadiens have won six of their last eight games (6-1-1).

Eric Robinson and Zach Werenski scored in regulation for Columbus (6-8-4). Backup goalie Elvis Merzlikins, who was recalled from the AHL on Monday, made 30 saves.

RANGERS 3, PENGUINS 2, OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Kaapo Kakko scored his second goal of the game 2:36 into overtime, giving New York a victory over Pittsburgh.

Adam Fox had a goal in regulation and set up Kakko's winner as New York recovered after blowing



Boston Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask reacts after giving up the game-winning goal to Florida Panthers center Mike Hoffman in a shoot out during an NHL hockey game in Boston, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. The Panthers defeated the Bruins 5-4.

a two-goal lead and improved to 5-1-1 in its last seven games. Alexander Georgiev, getting the start after Henrik Lundqvist played the previous three games, finished with 30 saves.

Justin Schultz and Jared McCann scored for the short-handed Penguins, who earned at least a point for the sixth time in seven games (4-1-2). Matt Murray, making his seventh straight start and 15th in 18 games this season, stopped 24 shots.

The Penguins were without star center Sidney Crosby due to a lower body injury. The two-time MVP did not travel with the team to New York after leaving in the third period of a 3-2 shootout win over Chicago on Saturday.

AVALANCHE 4, JETS 0

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Adam Werner made 40 saves in his NHL debut and Nathan MacKinnon finished with two goals and two assists as Colorado extended its winning streak to three games.

Werner's shutout is shared with Pavel Francouz, who started but only lasted 31 seconds before getting in-

jured.

Rookie defenseman Cale Makar opened the scoring for the Avalanche (11-5-2). Joonas Donskoi had a goal and two assists, and Matt Calvert contributed a pair of assists.

It was the first time this season the Jets (10-8-1) were shut out.

Connor Hellebuyck made 21 saves for Winnipeg, which went 2-1-1 on a four-game homestand.

COYOTES 3, BLUES 2, SO

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Nick Schmaltz and Conor Garland scored in the shootout, and Arizona snapped St. Louis' seven-game winning streak.

Garland's power-play goal tied it 2-all at 5:58 of the third period. St. Louis native Clayton Keller had a goal and an assist against his hometown team.

Jaden Schwartz and Colton Parayko scored for the Blues, but the defending Stanley Cup champions dropped to 0-2 in shootouts this season.

Arizona improved to 3-0 in tiebreakers after winning in a shootout for the second consecutive night. The Coyotes topped Washington 4-3 on Monday.

Darcy Kuemper made 33 saves for Arizona. St. Louis goalie Jordan Binnington stopped 20 shots.

CANUCKS 5, PREDATORS 3

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Elias Pettersson scored two goals on his 21st birthday and Vancouver snapped a four-game winless streak with a win over Nashville.

Tanner Pearson also scored twice for Vancouver, his second into an empty net. Adam Gaudette also scored for the Canucks (10-6-3), who are 1-3-1 in their last five.

Vancouver scored three times on the power play. Filip Forsberg, Mikael Granlund and Calle Jarnkrok scored for the Predators (9-6-3).

The teams combined for six goals in a wild third period.

RED WINGS 4, DUCKS 3, OT

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Dylan Larkin scored the tying goal during a 6-on-3 advantage with 37 seconds left in regulation, and Dennis Cholowski scored with 2:56 on the clock in overtime to send Detroit to its third straight victory.

After Ducks defensemen Brendan Guhle and Korbinian Holzer took penalties 21

seconds apart in the waning moments of regulation, Larkin scored from a sharp angle while the Red Wings had three extra skaters on the ice with their goalie pulled.

Cholowski then got his second goal of the season on a long shot past Ryan Miller, who made 32 saves for Anaheim.

Jakob Silfverberg, Josh Mahura and Cam Fowler scored in the second period for the Ducks. Ondrej Kase and Adam Henrique had two assists apiece, but Anaheim lost for the first time in seven games this season when scoring at least three goals.

Filip Hronek and Andreas Athanasiou scored in the second period for the Red Wings, and Jonathan Bernier stopped 24 shots against his former team.

SHARKS 6, OILERS 3

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Tomas Hertl scored and extended his point streak to four games on his 26th birthday, Evander Kane added his team-leading 11th goal of the season and San Jose beat Edmonton.

Brent Burns, Patrick Marleau, Barclay Goodrow and Timo Meier scored as San Jose matched its season-high goal total. Erik Karlsson had three assists as the Sharks (8-10-1) wrapped up a six-game homestand with their fourth straight victory after losing seven of eight.

NHL points leader Leon Draisaitl had a goal and an assist, extending his points streak to 10 games, and Zack Kassian and Sam Gagner each added a goal for Pacific Division-leading Edmonton (12-6-2).

KINGS 3, WILD 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anze Kopitar extended his point streak to four games, Jonathan Quick made 27 saves and Los Angeles snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Minnesota. Kopitar and Sean Walker each had a goal and an assist, and Jeff Carter also scored for Los Angeles. Kopitar has five points (two goals, three assists) in the past four games.

Matt Dumba scored Minne-

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Continued from Page 17

Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow declined to talk about specifics.

"We take the allegation seriously and we're going to look into it. If you're not following the rules, it's a serious matter," he said Tuesday at the annual GM meetings. "I'm not going to get into exactly what I knew or anybody knew at this point. So I'm just going to have to wait and see. But I'm sure there will be an appropriate time to answer that question directly."

Luhnow said he hoped the allegations wouldn't put a damper on Houston's recent run of success, which includes the team's first World Series title in 2017 and an AL pennant this season.

"Teams are competing with one another and everybody's trying to find an edge," Luhnow said. "But we all have to follow the rules and the rules are set by Major League Baseball. We all agree to follow them and if you don't there's ramifications to that. We

want to follow the rules and we want to compete and win. That's what every other club does, as well."

Danny Farquhar, who pitched for the Chicago White Sox twice at Minute Maid Park in September 2017, told The Athletic of "a banging from the dug-out, almost like a bat hitting the bat rack every time a changeup signal got put down." He said after Chicago changed to more complex signals "the banging stopped."

Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Carson Smith added to the sign stealing allegations on Twitter, saying that the Astros bullpen catcher would send signs to certain batters. He added that the "Astros went to extreme measures, undoubtedly still do, and it's paid off for them."

MLB strengthened its rules against sign stealing before the 2019 season, instituting procedures attempting to ensure teams did not use video to steal signs.

"After we review this new information we will deter-



Houston Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow speaks during a media availability during the Major League Baseball general managers annual meetings Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

mine any necessary next steps," MLB said in a statement.

Los Angeles Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said Wednesday there was "scuttlebutt" that the Astros were stealing signs during the 2017 World Series, but

"we certainly did not know anything definitive at the time." The Dodgers lost to the Astros in seven games. "There are things that have kind of existed since the beginning of time. And then there are other things that are even more egregious and clearly across the

line," he said. "And I think there are enough people involved in it, it would be pretty brazen to do certain things. And when you do, I think people are going to find out about it."

MLB already is investigating the Astros. Assistant general manager Brandon Taubman was fired for directing inappropriate comments at female reporters during a clubhouse celebration after the team beat the New York Yankees to win the AL pennant on Oct. 19. The team issued and then retracted a statement accusing a Sports Illustrated reporter of trying to "fabricate a story." Taubman was fired by the Astros on Oct. 24.

Luhnow said he didn't think the Taubman situation and the sign stealing allegations are related.

"I don't think they're tied together, but they obviously have come one after another it seems like the last few weeks," Luhnow said. "It's disappointing. If there is an issue that we need to address, we'll address it." □



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Davis, James lead Lakers to best 10-game start since 2010

By The Associated Press
Associated Press PHOENIX (AP) — Anthony Davis had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Kyle Kuzma added 23 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Phoenix Suns 123-115 on Tuesday night.

The Lakers (8-2) are off to their best 10-game start since 2010 and bounced back from a home loss to Toronto on Sunday. LeBron James added 19 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds. Phoenix (6-4) trailed for a big chunk of the fourth quarter but pushed ahead 113-111 on Devin Booker's fast-break layup with 3:29 left. The Lakers responded with three straight 3-pointers — one from James and two more from Kuzma — to lead 120-113 and put the game out of reach.

The Suns were led by Ricky Rubio and Booker, who both scored 21 points.

HAWKS 125, NUGGETS 121
DENVER (AP) — Trae Young scored 15 of his season-high 42 points in the fourth quarter and added 11 assists to lead Atlanta past Denver. Young finished seven points shy of his career high set March 1 against Chicago

last season. He was 13 of 21 from the field and finished 8 for 13 on 3-pointers.

Jabari Parker had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Alex Len scored 17 for the Hawks.

Will Barton led Denver with 21 points, Jokic had 20 and Paul Millsap added 19.

PACERS 111, THUNDER 85
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — T.J. Warren scored 11 of his 23 points in the third quarter to lead Indiana past Oklahoma City.

Malcolm Brogdon had 20 points, six rebounds and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the surging Pacers, who have won seven of eight, including four straight.

Danilo Gallinari scored 14 points, Deonte Burton had 13 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 11 points and six rebounds for the Thunder, who have lost three of four and remained winless on the road.

76ERS 98, CAVALIERS 97
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid scored 27 points, including the go-ahead dunk with 13.2 seconds remaining, Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Josh Richardson added 17 points and Ben Simmons had 15 for Philadelphia, which won despite missing 30 of 38 3-point attempts. Jordan Clarkson and Kevin Love each had 20 points to pace Cleveland. Collin Sexton added 18 points.

HEAT 117, PISTONS 108
MIAMI (AP) — Jimmy Butler scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, added 13 assists and Miami wasted most of what was a 29-point lead before hanging on to beat shorthanded Detroit. Kendrick Nunn also had 20 points for Miami, while Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Heat. Goran Dragic also had 18 points. Miami is 7-3, matching the third-best 10-game start in Heat history.

Luke Kennard was 0 for 7 in the first half, but recovered to score 22 for Detroit.

BULLS 120, KNICKS 102
CHICAGO (AP) — Coby White made a franchise-record seven 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and Chicago pulled away from slumping New York. White missed his first five shots from the field and began the final period with



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis dunks over Phoenix Suns guard Ricky Rubio (11) in the first half during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Curry hopes to return from broken hand 'in early spring'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry "definitely" plans to return this season from his broken left hand and is hoping to be back on the court at "some point in early spring."

When exactly the two-time NBA MVP will be able to play again remains uncertain.

Curry addressed the media Monday night for the first time since getting injured Oct. 30 and said he needs a second surgery on his non-shooting hand, probably in early December, to remove pins that were inserted during the first procedure Nov. 1 that involved his hand and index finger. "(Managing the) swelling

is something that's going to be of the utmost priority early in the rehab process," Curry said, "to get me a chance to come back and get my range of motion back pretty quickly." The Warriors initially said Curry would be re-evaluated three months after the surgery, which would be early February. □

just four points. But the rookie guard put on a dazzling show down the stretch. White finished with 27 points. Zach LaVine had 25 for Chicago, and Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds. New York lost for the sixth time in seven games. Marcus Morris scored 22 points for the Knicks, and RJ Barrett finished with 21 points and nine assists.

JAZZ 119, NETS 114
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Utah beat Brooklyn. Mike Conley scored 18 points, Emmanuel Mudiay added 15 and Jeff Green had 13 for the Jazz. Utah went ahead for good after Gobert scored on back-to-back possessions

in the final 90 seconds. Kyrie Irving led the Nets with 27 points on 10-of-30 shooting.

KINGS 107, TRAIL BLAZERS 99

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Bogdan Bogdanovic had 25 points and 10 assists, Nemanja Bjelica added 19 points and 12 rebounds and Sacramento won its first game since losing leading scorer De'Aaron Fox to an ankle injury, beating slumping Portland.

Bjelica helped make up for the loss of Fox. He made eight of his 14 shots and set a season-high for rebounds in his first double-double of the season. Buddy Hield added 20 points.

Damian Lillard had 27 points and CJ McCollum added 24 for the Blazers, who have lost five of six. □

Shildt wins NL Manager of the Year days after mom's death

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Shildt began his life in baseball at his mom's side, tagging along with her to work at a Double-A ballpark and picking up odd jobs around the clubhouse.

When Shildt was recognized Tuesday night for the career that has followed, the late Lib Shildt was the first thing on his mind.

"My mom was remarkable," he said.

Less than a week after his mother died, Shildt was honored for piloting the St. Louis Cardinals back into the playoffs, narrowly beating Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

Shildt earned the award in his first full season on the job, even though Counsell received more first-place votes (13-10) from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli won the AL prize in a tight finish over Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees. Both received 13 first-place votes, but Baldelli got more second-place nods (13-9). The 38-year-old is the youngest to win the award. Shildt teared up upon learning he'd been chosen. The 51-year-old is the first manager of the year who never played pro ball, but he's been around the game since he was a child. His mom worked as an administrative assistant for the Charlotte O's in the Baltimore Orioles' system, and Shildt was a regular in the clubhouse.

"Appreciative of the time and love she and my dad invested in me," Shildt said. Hospitalized for her final days, Shildt's mother repeatedly told her nurses how important it was that she live until Tuesday to find out if her son had won.

"She was emotional about knowing it was likely she wasn't going to be here," Shildt said. "I said, 'You know what? You're going to know before I am.'"

"It still hasn't sunk in in total and I don't know if it ever will, ultimately, what that loss is going to feel like," he added.

Shildt replaced Mike Ma-



In this May 11, 2019, file photo, Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli, left, looks up during the team's baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Minneapolis; and in this Sept. 25, 2019, file photo, St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Shildt pauses in the dugout during the fifth inning of the team's baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

they as Cardinals manager during the 2018 season, and under his steady guidance, St. Louis has been among baseball's best teams since. The club won 91 games and the NL Central crown this year, ending the franchise's three-year postseason drought. The Cardinals gave Shildt a contract extension through the 2022 season.

"I set my sights on being the best coach I could be just like being the best player I could be, and the journey has led me here," Shildt said.

Atlanta's Brian Snitker finished third after winning the award last year. The Dodgers' Dave Roberts was fourth and Nationals manager Dave Martinez came in fifth. Washington turned a 19-31 start into a World Series championship, but voting for the award concluded before the postseason began.

Baldelli and Shildt are the eighth and ninth managers to win this award in their first full seasons on the job.

Baldelli took over a team that won 78 games in 2018 and pushed them to 101 victories and an AL Central title. He worked tightly with Minnesota's analytics-focused front office — a shift from predecessor Paul Molitor, who won the award in 2017 — and oversaw a turnaround powered by the team's major league-record 307 home runs.

"There's really no playbook," Baldelli said. "You certainly take advantage of the re-

sources around you, the people who you trust, you rely on them in a lot of ways. I did that in a lot of different ways." The self-dubbed Bomb Squad thrived under Baldelli, whose big league playing career was cut short by a rare disorder that led to frequent fatigue and soft tissue injuries.

One of Baldelli's priorities was keeping players rested, a strategy that worked especially well with his catchers. Nobody started more than 73 games behind the plate for Minnesota, yet the trio of Mitch Garver, Jason Castro and Willians Astudillo combined for 48 home runs, most in the majors by any team's backstops.

Young hitters Jorge Polanco and Max Kepler had breakout seasons, Miguel Sano and Byron Buxton began to meet the weighty expectations that followed exceptional minor league careers, Nelson Cruz kept putting up big numbers and a no-name bullpen emerged as one of the most reliable in baseball.

"We have a group of young players here in Minnesota, a nucleus of young guys that were really coming into their own in a lot of ways," Baldelli said. "I think some of those guys were ready to take the next step in their career offensively, and a couple of those guys were doing that at the same time. We also complemented them with some quality, veteran players." Rays manager Kevin Cash also earned three first-



place votes and finished third. Oakland's Bob Melvin was fourth, followed by Houston's AJ Hinch and Cleveland's Terry Francona.

ON DECK
All teammates a season ago, Gerrit Cole, Justin Verlander and Charlie Morton are finalists for the AL Cy Young Award, which will be announced Wednesday. Cole and Verlander

pitched the Astros to their second pennant in three seasons and are the favorites for the award. Morton left Houston for Tampa Bay in free agency and had a career year.

Mets ace Jacob deGrom is expected to repeat as the NL Cy Young winner. He's up against the Nationals' Max Scherzer and Dodgers lefty Hyun-Jin Ryu. □

Associated Press



In this March 3, 2006, file photo, World Baseball Classic series Italian team catcher Mike Piazza jokes with teammates during an Italian team workout in Lakeland, Fla.

Associated Press

Piazza says he will manage Italian national baseball team

By The Associated Press
Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza says he has agreed to become manager of Italy's national baseball team. The 51-year-old Piazza, who was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, is of Italian ancestry. He tweeted Wednesday he will manage Italy at

a European tournament in 2020 and at the 2021 World Baseball Classic. Piazza was Italy's hitting coach at the 2009 and 2013 WBC tournaments. In 2016, he bought control of the third-tier soccer club Reggiana, which dropped out of Serie C after the 2017-18 season. □



In this March 31, 2018 file photo Los Angeles Galaxy's Zlatan Ibrahimović, of Sweden, acknowledges fans as he walks off the field after an MLS soccer match against the Los Angeles FC in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

LA Galaxy, Zlatan Ibrahimović mutually part ways after 2 years

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) —

You're welcome and goodbye, Los Angeles.

Zlatan Ibrahimović and the LA Galaxy are officially parting ways after two eventful seasons, the 38-year-old Swedish superstar and the club announced Wednesday.

"I came, I saw, I conquered," Ibrahimović wrote on Twitter. "Thank you (at)LAGalaxy for making me feel alive again. To the Galaxy fans - you wanted Zlatan, I gave you Zlatan. You are welcome. The story continues...Now go back to watch baseball."

The Swedish superstar scored 56 goals in 52 MLS games after joining the Galaxy in March 2018, injecting his inimitable blend of talent and swagger into a stagnating club. This season, he scored a franchise-record 30 goals — more than the rest of the Galaxy roster combined (28).

A week before Zlatan debuted with a dramatic two-goal performance as a substitute in a win over crosstown rival Los Angeles FC, he announced his arrival in Hollywood by taking out a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times reading simply: "Dear Los Angeles, You're welcome."

"Since his arrival in 2018, Zlatan has positively influenced the sport of soccer in Los Angeles," Galaxy President Chris Klein said

in a statement announcing the departure. "We are grateful for his work ethic and passion. We thank Zlatan for his professionalism and immeasurable impact on the Los Angeles community and the soccer community in North America as a whole."

Ibrahimović's MLS jaunt was a mixed success, at least by his lofty standards. He was an elite, steady scorer for the five-time league champions and was likely the league's top box-office draw on the road, and he kept the market in thrall with his bold pronouncements and rivalries with opponents and clubs, particularly LAFC in the Galaxy's El Trafico rivalry series.

But the Galaxy won just one playoff game in Zlatan's tenure, and they finished eighth in the overall league table this season after missing the playoffs in his debut campaign. He lost the MLS MVP award this year to LAFC's Carlos Vela, who scored a league-record 34 goals.

Although Ibrahimović was their most important player for the past two seasons, the Galaxy didn't expect Ibrahimović to end his career with them, and he does not appear to be close to retirement.

Rumors of his departure have been heard for months, and Ibrahimović has never stayed at any club for more than four seasons in his peripatetic career. □



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, celebrates following the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

Hamilton hopes new 2021 rules bring F1's best era in years

SAO PAULO (AP) — Six-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton believes new rules in place for the 2021 season onward could give the racing series its best era for a long time.

The 34-year-old Mercedes driver, who spoke on Wednesday ahead of this weekend's Brazilian Grand Prix, hopes the rule changes will enable him to test his abilities further in a more closely competitive racing environment.

F1 announced its new rules for 2021 late last month ahead of the Nov. 3 United States GP, in which Hamilton secured his sixth title to move one behind Michael Schumacher's all-time F1 record.

F1 owners want closer racing and budget caps to reduce the financial gap between traditional big spenders — like Ferrari, Red Bull and Mercedes — and more modest teams.

Cars will be heavier and slower, too, wheel-to-wheel racing is set to be improved, and the calendar could be expanded from 21 to 25 races — although drivers are not in unanimous agreement on more races.

"If it (the new rules) does what it says on paper, it could be the best era of

racing that we have seen in a long, long time. And I want to be there if it is the case. It will be another opportunity to show my abilities," Hamilton said, adding F1 currently has a "massive problem" over being more competitive.

"We got these great cars with great power and grip, but you can't get close enough in the races. That means less excitement for all of you. That means we have to have a DRS (drag reduction system), which is a band-aid for the poor characteristics of the current regulations," the driver said.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen said on Tuesday that "it is getting a bit boring seeing Lewis win."

The Mercedes driver has won 10 out of 19 races this season, with only Brazil and Abu Dhabi left.

Hamilton has previously expressed concerns on environmental issues connected with the sport, and said he is against a Rio de Janeiro bid to build a track in an area of 200,000 trees to host the Brazilian GP from 2021 onwards. The contract with Sao Paulo ends next year.

"Does it mean they will knock down any trees? Well, I am not for that,"

Hamilton said. "I don't want to have to race in a new circuit that has damaged beautiful lands."

Company Rio Motorpark insists the track will be built in accordance with environmental legislation and paid for by private stakeholders.

The negotiations are open until May.

Hamilton said he would like to spend time in Rio, though, because of frequent invitations from his friend and Brazil soccer star Neymar to attend New Year and Carnival celebrations.

Asked about the 2020 season, Hamilton said he expects a tougher challenger from Ferrari.

"Ferrari has the better chance of providing a car and an engine that could fight for a title in the short term," Hamilton said, adding Red Bull to the short list of possible contenders next year. Hamilton also said F1 getting more expensive each year until now was a move "in the wrong direction." "If it were today, I wouldn't have been able to get to F1," he said.

Hamilton won his first title here in 2008, snatching it away from home favorite Felipe Massa on the last lap of the Brazilian GP. □



In this Aug. 16, 2018, file photo, the new Fitbit Charge 3 fitness trackers with sport bands are displayed in New York.

Privacy, consumer groups seek to block Google-Fitbit deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Nine privacy, social justice and consumer groups are calling for the U.S. government to block Google's \$2.1 billion acquisition of fitness-gadget maker Fitbit, citing antitrust and privacy concerns. They say in a Wednesday letter to the Federal Trade Commission that the deal would consolidate Google's dominance over internet services like search, advertising and smartphone operating systems.

They also worry it'll add to Google's store of consumer data. Health information is of particular concern. Google has hired health care executives, hinting at a health-data business to come. Politicians and regulators have been scrutinizing Google and other Silicon Valley companies for how they use customer data and leverage their size to thwart competitors. Google didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. □



This Sept. 24, 2019, file photo shows a Google sign on the campus in Mountain View, Calif.

Google's health care ambitions now involve patient data

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google announced a partnership with a large U.S. health care system aimed at modernizing its information system and providing new tools for doctors, in the tech giant's latest foray into the health industry. Announcement of its arrangement with the Catholic health care system Ascension followed a Wall Street Journal report on Monday that Google had access to thousands of patient health records without doctors' knowledge. Both companies stressed that their deal is compliant

with federal health-privacy law. Unlike most of the data Google collects on individuals, health data is strictly regulated by the federal government. Google is providing cloud computing services to Ascension, which operates health centers in 21 states, mostly across the South and Midwest. It is also testing the use of artificial intelligence to examine health records and find patterns that Google says might help doctors and other providers. Health care providers are increasingly interested in

using data to help manage care and keep patients healthy. That might mean relatively simple things like tracking whether someone refills a prescription or something more complex like spotting a worsening medical condition and addressing it before the patient winds up in the hospital. Health care systems are allowed to share patient information with business partners so long as the partners agree to safeguard the information and use it only in the way it was intended. □



In this Oct. 29, 2019, file photo, a Facebook app is shown on a smartphone in Miami. Facebook said Wednesday, Nov. 13, that it removed 3.2 billion fake accounts from its service from April to September, up slightly from 3 billion in the previous six months. Associated Press

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook says it removed 3.2 billion fake accounts

from its service from April to September, up slightly from 3 billion in the previous six months. Nearly all of the bogus ac-

Facebook says it removed 3.2B fake accounts in 6 months

counts were caught before they had a chance to become "active" users of the social network, so they are not counted in the user figures the company reports regularly. Facebook estimates that about 5% of its 2.45 billion user accounts are fake. The company said in a report Wednesday that it also removed 18.5 million instances of child nudity and sexual exploitation from its main platform in the April-September period, up from 13 million in the previous six months. It says the increase was due to improvements

in detection. In addition, Facebook said it removed 11.4 million instances of hate speech during the period, up from 7.5 million in the previous six months. The company says it is beginning to remove hate speech proactively, the way it does with some extremist content, child-exploitation and other material. Facebook expanded the data it shares on its removal of terrorist propaganda. Its earlier reports only included data on al-Qaida, ISIS and their affiliates. The latest report shows Facebook

detects material posted by non-ISIS or al-Qaida extremist groups at a lower rate than those two organizations. The report is Facebook's fourth on standards enforcement and the first to include data from Instagram in areas such as child nudity, illicit firearm and drug sales, and terrorist propaganda. The company said it removed 1.3 million instances of child nudity and child sexual exploitation from Instagram during the reported period, much of it before people saw it. □

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Ho, ho, no? Reconsidering store credit cards at the holidays

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

Most shoppers know the routine: It's time to check out and the cashier (or website) offers a discount if you sign up for the store credit card.

The offer can be hard to refuse, but experts say some shoppers should do just that.

Signups for retailer credit cards soar during the holidays. But the cards' perks don't always outweigh the downsides for everyone.

Here's what to consider:

HOW THEY WORK

Retailer credit cards work in one of two ways.

Cards that can only be used for purchases at that chain — like Target or Macy's— are known as "closed-loop" cards.

"Open loop" cards, on the other hand, such as the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa or the Capital One Walmart Rewards card, can be used anywhere but tend to earn better perks at the named retailer. Holidays are when Americans tend to shop the most, so it's no surprise that signups for credit cards jump at the end of the year.

Credit reporting agency Transunion says that credit card originations jump in November and December for both general and private label cards. But those associated retailers tend to be more sensitive to the holiday surge, said Matthew Komos, vice presi-



In this Aug. 11, 2019, file photo a woman holds a Macy's card in New Orleans. Signups for retailer credit cards soar during the holidays.

Associated Press

dent of financial services, research and consulting at Transunion.

Transunion has studied this issue for several years and found that private label card originations can double during the holiday period. For department stores and clothing stores alone last year, originations were 65% higher during the two-month holiday season compared with the rest of the year.

PROS

There are some perks to retailer cards.

A closed-loop card is easier to acquire than a traditional credit card. That's good news for folks who are just

starting to build, or rebuild, their credit.

The cards can save you significant money if you are making a large purchase — say a refrigerator, mattress or a particularly large haul of goods. The discount and loyalty perks can also be a good thing if it's a store you already shop at regularly.

Other benefits vary by card, and include free shipping, early access to sales or more generous return policies. Nordstrom, for example, offers its loyalty members and cardholders curbside pickup for purchases and free alterations. There's also a quick approval process, which is ap-

pealing in the rush of holiday shopping.

CONS

The most notable downside of store cards is interest rates.

The average interest rate on a retail card is about 26 percent, compared with 21 percent for a traditional credit card, according to Ted Rossman, industry analyst at Creditcards.com.

That's just the midpoint of the range based on credit worthiness, Rossman warns. Some branded cards easily run into the 30 percent range.

That's no big deal if you pay your card off in full each month, but for people that

carry a balance, it can be a big expense.

Also consider your credit score. Too many inquiries could lower your score slightly and too much debt can drag it down. Additionally, store cards typically come with much lower credit limits than a normal card, which means if you run up \$400 on your store card with a \$500 credit limit, you could be hurting the utilization rate that goes into determining your score as well.

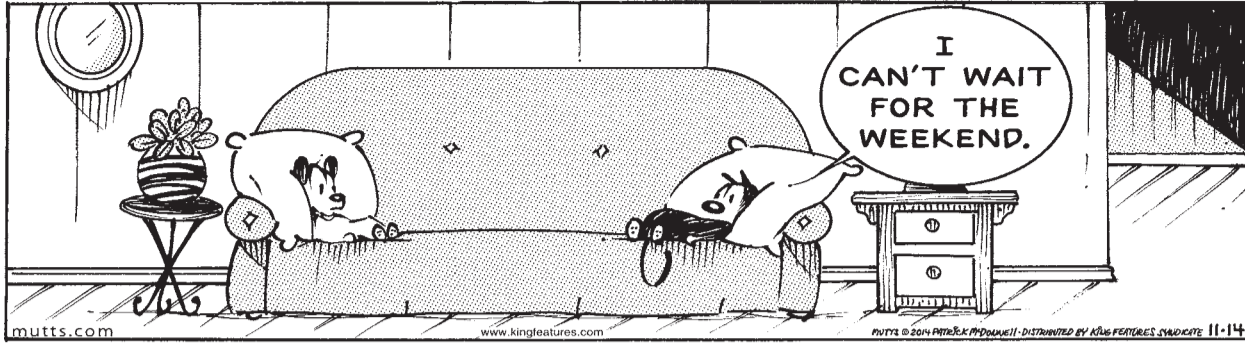
These cards may also encourage you to make purchases you wouldn't otherwise make, said Kit Yarrow a consumer psychologist and author of the book "Decoding the Consumer Mind." Having a store credit card might incite you to make a purchase there rather than shop for the most competitive price, she said. You also open yourself up to more marketing, which may induce you to buy more than you can afford.

Consumers predominantly sign up for these cards on impulse, but their financial impact is long lasting.

Yarrow urges shoppers to stop and consider if they just want the discount versus really needing another credit card. And that can be hard to do during the holiday rush.

"There's a two-month period of time where rational people become a little insane and it's during holiday shopping," she said. □

Mutts



6 Chix



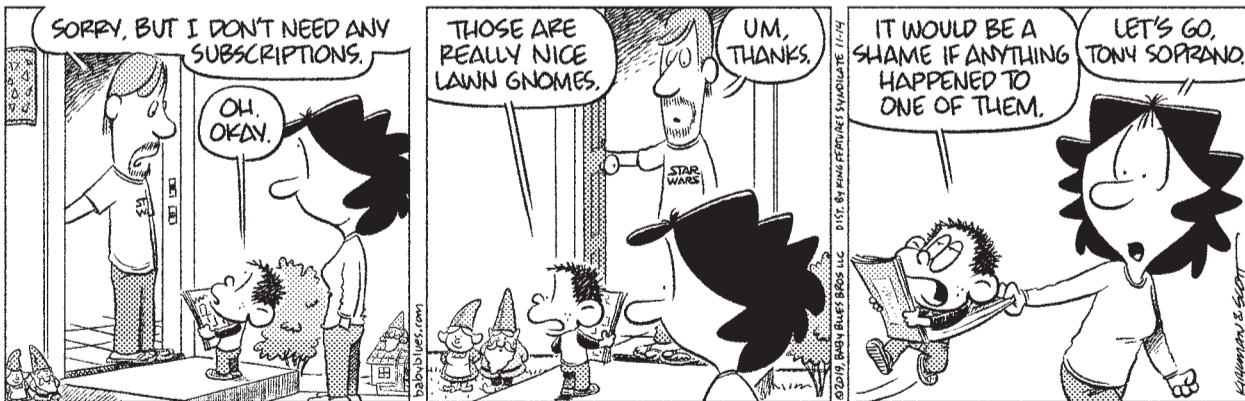
Blondie



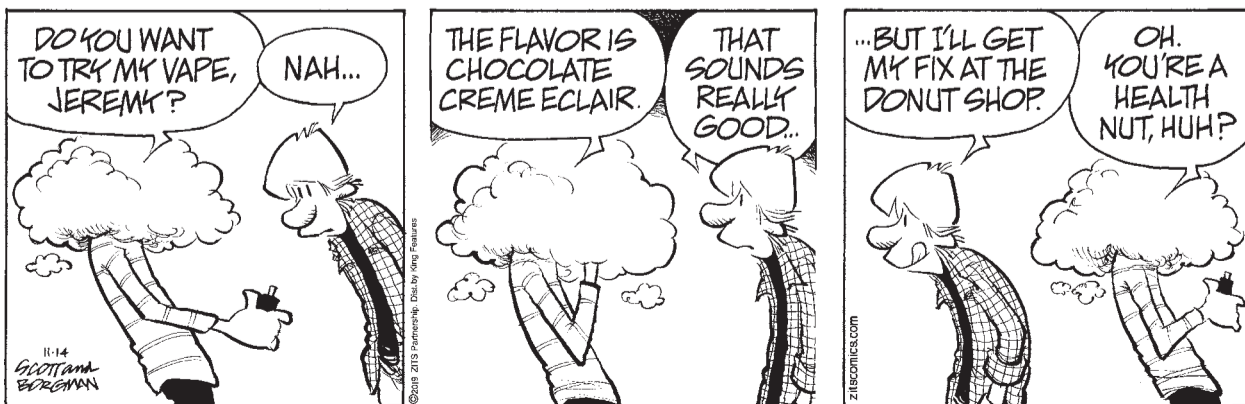
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		1		5				
6	7	4	9					
1	9	2			3			2
	3				8			
	2		8		7			5
9								
		3	5		1		7	
		2			6			

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/14

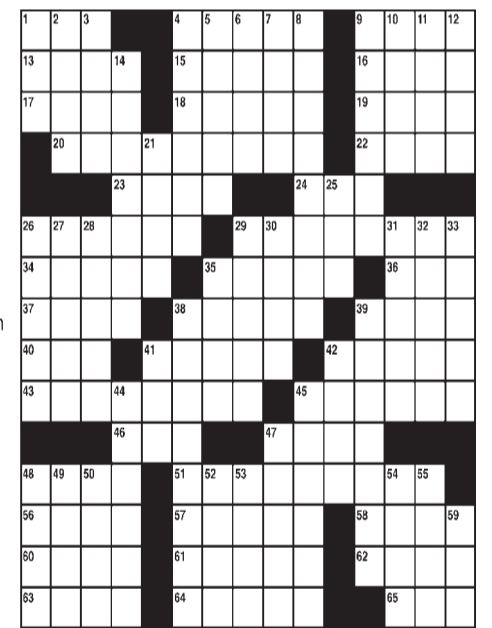
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	1	2	3	9	8	4	7	5
9	8	4	5	2	7	1	6	3
7	3	5	1	6	4	9	8	2
3	7	6	2	4	1	5	9	8
4	2	8	9	5	3	7	1	6
5	9	1	8	7	6	3	2	4
1	5	9	4	8	2	6	3	7
2	4	7	6	3	9	8	5	1
8	6	3	7	1	5	2	4	9

ACROSS

- 1 Womanizer
- 4 "Thou ___ not kill"
- 9 Dull-colored
- 13 Soft cheese
- 15 Outdoor socializing area
- 16 Carousel or Ferris wheel
- 17 ___ the tide; stop from worsening
- 18 External
- 19 As wise ___ owl
- 20 Caffeine or Ritalin
- 22 Topaz & ruby
- 23 Namesakes of Natalie's dad
- 24 Wedding words
- 26 Mother Superior
- 29 Magnificence
- 34 Candid
- 35 Buckets
- 36 Inventor Whitney
- 37 Remove from office
- 38 Prima ___; diva
- 39 ___ Mary, full of grace...



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/14/19

- 40 Last month: abbr.
- 41 Apple centers
- 42 Do math problems
- 43 One approaching adulthood
- 45 Bandleader Tommy
- 46 Spanish cheer
- 47 Fibber
- 48 Usually-dry streambed
- 51 Coming into view
- 56 12/24 & 12/31
- 57 Hold sway
- 58 Vittles
- 60 Brazilian soccer great
- 61 Comedian Kovacs
- 62 Days of ___; yesteryear
- 63 Refrain syllables
- 64 Songs for two
- 65 Actor Berry

- 3 Count calories
- 4 Pitcher parts
- 5 Drags or carries
- 6 "___ boy!"; encouraging words
- 7 Claim against property
- 8 Burrito wrap
- 9 "Puff, the Magic ___"
- 10 Go higher
- 11 West or Sandler
- 12 Uncle ___ Rice
- 14 Renowned
- 21 Disguise
- 25 ___ Moines
- 26 Underway
- 27 Mr. Springsteen
- 28 Sew lightly
- 29 Not as nuts
- 30 Clothing fasteners
- 31 Passes out cards
- 32 Small fruit
- 33 "The Life of ___" of old TV
- 35 Tiny skin opening
- 38 Like frayed book pages

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	G	A	R	E	A	S	S	C	A	B
L	O	B	E	B	E	A	S	T	C	O	V
O	U	S	T	A	R	R	H	Y	T	H	M
U	N	O	S	T	A	L	E	H	E	E	D
L	A	T	E	N	J	I	M				
S	A	U	C	E	S	R	E	C	E	S	
O	T	T	E	R	S	L	E	E	K	L	I
D	I	E	D	S	L	E	E	P	B	E	T
A	L	L	W	O	O	E	D	C	A	N	A
T	Y	R	A	N	T	T	A	W	D	R	Y
E	F	G	M	A	P	L	E				
S	L	O	P	E	S	H	O	N	E	R	F
L	I	B	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	M	E
A	M	I	N	P	A	D	R	E	A	S	A
M	A	T	T	R	E	E	D	I	T		

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11/14/19

- 39 Appall
- 41 Baseball's Ripken Jr.
- 42 Fly high
- 44 Sounds
- 45 Keaton & Sawyer
- 47 Lawful
- 48 Cried
- 49 Declare positively
- 50 Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya
- 52 Home to most alpacas
- 53 Yearn
- 54 Breakfast ___; kitchen recess
- 55 VP after Quayle
- 59 Lion's lair

Zimbabwe says 200 elephants have now died amid drought

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — More than 200 elephants have died amid a severe drought, Zimbabwe's parks agency said on Tuesday, and a mass relocation of animals is planned to ease congestion.

Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokesman Tinashe Farawo said at least 200 elephants have died in vast Hwange National Park alone since October and other parks are affected.

Animals including giraffe, buffalo and impala are also dying, he said, and the situation can improve only after rains return.

"Almost every animal is being affected," he said. "Of course, elephants are easily noticed during patrols or game drives, but some bird species are seriously affected because they can only breed in certain tree heights and those trees are being knocked down by el-

ephants." Many animals are straying from Zimbabwe's parks into nearby communities in search of food and water. The parks agency has said 33 people have died from conflict with animals this year alone.

The agency said it plans to move 600 elephants, two prides of lions and other animals from the Save Valley Conservancy in the southeast to less congested parks. A pack of wild dogs, 50 buffalo, 40 giraffe and 2,000 impalas also will be relocated, Farawo said. The animals "have exceeded their ecological carrying capacity," he said. "If the populations go unchecked, the animals will threaten the very ecosystem they depend on for survival."

Zimbabwe has an estimated 85,000 elephants, second only to neighboring Botswana with more than 130,000. □

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Maybe banking culture doesn't always make people dishonest

By MALCOLM RITTER

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists say they were unable to confirm a highly publicized 2014 study that suggested banking culture can promote dishonesty.

New lab experiments with bankers in the Middle East and Asia Pacific turned out differently, maybe indicating that the original finding doesn't apply worldwide, researchers reported Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

In response, the authors of the original work pointed to several differences between the two studies and stressed that they never intended to imply that all banks have a problematic business culture.

Instead, the point of the 2014 study is that such a culture could be part of the reason for episodes of fraudulent or unethical behavior, Alain Cohn and colleagues of the University of Zurich wrote in *Nature*.

In fact, the original study focused on employees of a large international bank that was involved in several high-profile legal disputes involving "problematic business practices," they wrote. They did not identify the bank or its location because they had promised confidentiality, but said it was involved in trading, asset management, investment banking and private banking.

The original work, covered by The Associated Press and other news agencies, subjected 128 employees of that bank to a laboratory test of honesty. Each repeatedly flipped a coin and reported the results, knowing that certain outcomes would earn them money. The question was how often they'd lie about the results.



In this Sept. 24, 2013, file photo, cut stacks of \$100 bills make their way down the line at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

Participants who had just been asked about their work at the bank showed evidence of cheating, while other bank employees, who hadn't been asked about their work, did not. That indicates the employees were basically honest, but that thinking about their jobs triggered dishonesty. That suggests that banking culture favors dishonest behavior, Cohn and his colleagues concluded in 2014.

The new study repeated that experiment with 620 commercial bankers from a large institution in the Asia Pacific region and 148 commercial bankers from a medium-sized institution in the Middle East. It found no statistically significant effect of asking employees about their work ahead of the coin-flipping.

Zoe Rahwan of the Max

Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin and study suggested several

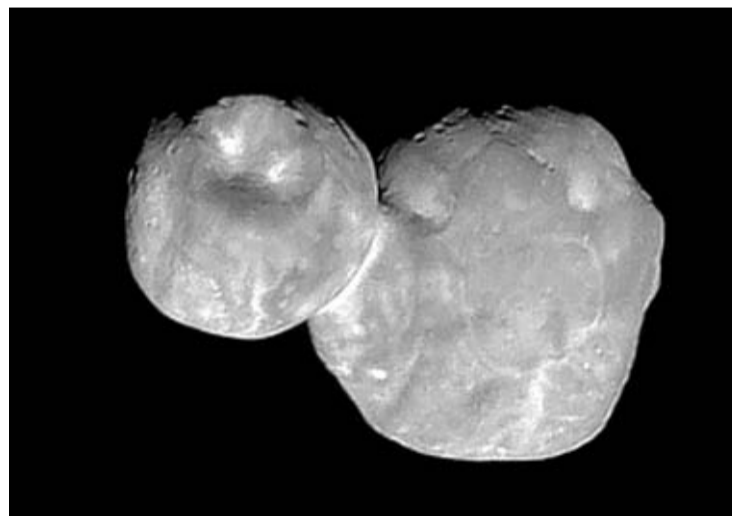
possible explanations for the disparate results.

One is that the banking culture sampled in the original study is different in other places, they said. Another is that only "ethical" banks let their employees participate in the new study, following widespread press coverage of the 2014 results. The new work was done in 2015 and 2016.

Cohn and colleagues agreed that banks with history of misconduct were probably less likely to let their employees participate in the new work, resulting in a sample different from the one they tested.

That and some procedural differences between the studies — one studied a bank involved in trading and investment, the other studied a commercial bank, for example — suggest the new work can't address whether the 2014 study applies to different institutions or countries, they said. □

Most distant world ever explored gets new name: Arrokoth



This Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 image made available by NASA shows the Kuiper belt object originally called "Ultima Thule," about 1 billion miles beyond Pluto, encountered by the New Horizons spacecraft.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— The most distant world ever explored 4 billion miles away finally has an official name: Arrokoth.

That means "sky" in the language of the Native American Powhatan people, NASA said Tuesday. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew past the snowman-

shaped Arrokoth on New Year's Day, 3 ½ years after exploring Pluto. At the time, this small icy world 1 billion miles (1.6 billion kilometers) beyond Pluto was nicknamed Ultima Thule given its vast distance from us.

"The name 'Arrokoth' reflects the inspiration of looking to the skies," lead scientist Alan Stern of Southwest

Research Institute said in a statement, "and wondering about the stars and worlds beyond our own."

The name was picked because of the Powhatan's ties to the Chesapeake Bay region.

New Horizons is operated from Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland. The Hubble Space Telescope — which discovered Arrokoth in 2014 — has its science operations in Baltimore.

The New Horizons team got consent for the name from Powhatan Tribal elders and representatives, according to NASA. The International Astronomical Union and its Minor Planet Center approved the choice.

Arrokoth is among countless objects in the so-called Kuiper Belt, or vast Twilight Zone beyond the orbit of Neptune. New Horizons will observe some of these objects from afar as it makes its way deeper into space. □

New baby and new music: Ricky Martin hosts the Latin Grammys

NEW YORK (AP) — Between a household with four children, the release of a new single and his debut as host of the Latin Grammys, Ricky Martin hasn't gotten much sleep lately. But it's all good. The Puerto Rican star is excited to perform his latest song "Cántalo" with Residente and Bad Bunny at Thursday's awards ceremony, and is also ready to have fun as the show's master of ceremonies along with actresses Roselyn Sánchez and Paz Vega. He is also preparing a new album and tour in 2020. All of this while taking care of a newborn (Renn), a 10-month-old baby (Lucía) and his 11-year-old twins (Matteo and Valentino) "The art of multi-tasking," Martin, 47, said with a laugh in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I can't complain. I am surrounded by people that I love that help me run the house. Obviously, I have my husband (Jwan Yosef) who is wonderful; I have grandmothers that are super involved and that provide all the love in the world. ... As



This Nov. 2, 2019 file photo shows Ricky Martin at the 2019 LACMA Art and Film Gala in Los Angeles. Associated Press

they say, it takes a village." And as a hands-on dad, he says he can do it all as long as he's with his family: "Everyone travels to Las Vegas and everyone goes on tour." Martin opened the first Latin Grammy Awards in 2000 singing a tribute to Tito Puente with Celia Cruz and Gloria Estefan in a

memorable performance. On Thursday, he hopes to leave a mark again when he performs "Cántalo," a song that uses sounds from the archives of the iconic record label Fania. Martin knew he had something special in his hand, as well as a "big responsibility" when Fania allowed him to dig into its treasures. He de-

cidated to call on Residente and Bad Bunny, and they got together in the studio to "make magic," as he said. The result is a three-and-a-half-minute song that fuses salsa, jazz and some bossa nova, with some urban and tropical rhythms. "It's a celebration," Martin said. "It's a message of

freedom in the sense that the only thing we want is for my people to sing — to sing and to liberate and to be happy and to give the love, which is so needed these days."

Though this is his first time hosting the Latin Grammys, he's not fazed by the responsibility.

"To be honest, I have to say that I feel very protected, first of all because I am working with a great production, people that had been doing this for many years and that are the gurus of the industry. ... (And) also I am with Roselyn Sánchez and Paz Vega, who have done this before," he explained.

Plus, he is Latin Grammy veteran. He has won three awards and was celebrated as Person of the Year in 2006, a moment he recalls among his most memorable.

Martin says that despite the passing of time, he keeps "the hunger" and "the same intensity" when he gets into the studio or goes onstage. "It's my vice, it's my life," he said. □

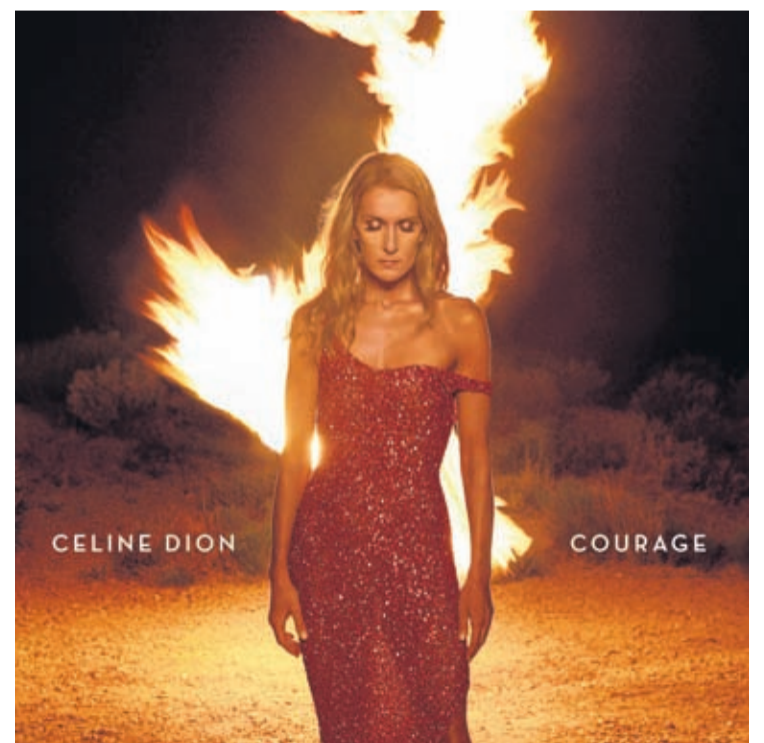
Celine Dion moves past loss on excellent new album

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

Celine Dion, "Courage" (Columbia Records) The search is officially over: If you've been wondering what the saddest song of 2019 is, we've found it. It's on Celine Dion's new album, "Courage." Track No. 11, "For the Lover That I Lost," will have you weeping for two good reasons — one of the songwriters is Sam Smith, that master of grief, while the singer herself is still mourning twin deaths. "I laid a dozen roses for the lover that I lost/I stand by all my choices even though I paid the cost," Dion sings. "Courage" is her first English-language album since the passing of her husband, Rene Angélil, and brother, Daniel, only two days apart in 2016. Dion has dealt with the losses before on her French album "Encore

un soir," released seven months after the deaths, and this time she's moving gingerly forward. There are soaring ballads of lost love but mostly indicators of hope and perseverance, like when she sings "I'm flying on my own (on the wings of your love)" on "Flying on My Own" and on the title track, where she vows to keep going: "Courage don't you dare fail me now." "I have missed you, so heavily/But the weight's kind of lifting," she sings on the gospel-tinged "I Will Be Stronger," adding: "I don't feel like giving up just because you climbed off." There are even stems shooting up new love — the '60s throwback "How Did You Get Here" and the gentle piano ballad written by Skylar Grey called "Falling in Love Again." The cover of the album shows Dion

walking away from flames, her dress sullied, a woman bowed but not broken. Since Dion isn't a songwriter, it's not always easy to know what she's going through. But what she chooses to add her titanic voice can tell volumes. And the 16-track "Courage" is a very strong mature pop album with modern and EDM touches showcasing one of the world's most jaw-dropping vocalists, this time often rawer than we are used to. Dion is like a sonic chameleon that changes colors depending on who is nearby and this time Sia is around for two very Sia songs ("Baby" and "Lying Down" with David Guetta), but there are also offerings from such longtime collaborators as Liz Rodrigues and Jorgen Elofsson. The standard edition album ends with the spacy, dark and melancholy "Per-



This cover image released by Sony Music Entertainment Canada/Columbia Records shows "Courage," by Celine Dion. Associated Press

fect Goodbye" — and Dion even slips in the rare curse word. She's angry. "Don't need to understand

if God's got a plan/It's out of our hands anyway," she sings. We're just glad her heart will go on. □



This image released by Sony Pictures shows, from left, Kristen Stewart, Ella Balinska and Naomi Scott in "Charlie's Angels," in theaters on Nov. 15.

Associated Press

Elizabeth Banks takes a shot at 'Charlie's Angels'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

If you're watching a big studio film featuring a female ensemble, there is a 50% chance that there is going to be some monologue about how men underestimating women is both a truism and an advantage. It's becoming as inevitable as environmentalist supervillains. On its face it's a harmless observation and a signal to the audience that this movie is aware of modern gender politics. Sometimes it's even passable, as in "Hustlers." But where it starts to wear thin is when the movie around it doesn't stand up to even the most modest expectations of popcorn entertainment (hello, "Ocean's 8"). The latter is more the case with "Charlie's Angels," starring Kristen Stewart, Ella Balinska and Naomi Scott. It is, of course, a semi-reboot of the 1970s television series that spawned a film series and another attempt at a television show. While it has always featured three women in the lead roles, the original concept was not exactly a model of enlightened feminism. And unhelpful monikers like "Jiggle TV" did their best to undermine any kind of empowerment that audiences might have derived from seeing women leading a popular television show. Even Farah Fawcett

once chalked the show's No. 1 status up to bras (or lack thereof). But then Drew Barrymore and McG came along with a take that knowingly winked at its own history of exploitation while playing into a very 1990s "you go girl" concept. Add a batch of charismatic movie stars and a Destiny's Child anthem about financial independence and suddenly "Charlie's Angels" seemed fresh. What is most surprising about the latest "Charlie's Angels," which was written and directed by Elizabeth Banks, who also plays the part of Bosley, is how little the "go girl" feminism of the 2000 film has evolved in nearly 20 years. Blame society or a lack of imagination on the part of the filmmakers, but there is nothing all that new about the ideas here. The film even feels the need to hit the audience over the head with a "girls can do anything" message right at the start with an entirely sincere (and wholly disconnected) montage showing pre-teens doing things like sports and science. But then the question of expectations rises again: What are we really looking for in a "Charlie's Angels" movie after all? Not terribly much. Some good action, costumes and chemistry from the leads, perhaps. In

other words, just entertain us. And in that respect, this 2019 "Charlie's Angels" only partially succeeds. The action is fine and engaging but nothing we haven't seen before. The costumes, by Kym Barrett, are fantastic (a love letter to sequins, hot pants and excess) as are all the fierce makeup looks. As for the chemistry? Well, it's a little lacking. Part of that is due to the story. These Angels don't have a pre-existing relationship. Stewart's Sabina and Balinska's Jane are solo operators. And one (Scott) isn't even an Angel at all, but an engineer who gets dragged into the fray because she's discovered that the energy saving device she created can be weaponized. So when things go awry with the device and it's stolen to be sold on the black market, they have to learn to work together under the oh-so-fabulous and oh-so-jaded guidance of Banks' Bosley. Stewart is having so much fun playing such a sarcastic and carnal character that it's impossible not to smile along with her, but the others get a bit lost in her movie star shadow. The interplay of three magnetic stars is what made the 2000 film so appealing. And Stewart's delightful comedic turn is not enough to carry the sluggish beginning. □

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SMALL ISLAND PH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1:00PM

CHARLIE'S ANGELS KRISTEN STEWART | NAOMI SCOTT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH **PH** MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:30 SAT 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10 SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 SAT-SUN 1:35 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

FORD v FERRARI CHRISTIAN BALE | MATT DAMON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH **PH** MON-FRI 7:50 SAT-SUN 4:35 | 7:50

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 5:30 | 8:40 SAT-SUN 2:20 | 5:30 | 8:40

MON-THU 4:10 | 7:20 FRI 4:10 | 7:20 | 10:30 SAT 1:00 | 4:10 | 7:20 | 10:30 SUN 1:00 | 4:10 | 7:20

Last Christmas EMILIA CLARKE | HENRY GOLDING WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH **PH** MON-FRI 6:15 | 8:40 SAT 3:50 | 6:15 | 8:40 | 11:05 SUN 3:50 | 6:15 | 8:40

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

PLAYING WITH FIRE JOHN CENA | KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PH **PH** MON-FRI 6:10 | 8:30 SAT 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50 SUN 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15

TERMINATOR DARK FATE LINDA HAMILTON | ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PH **PH** MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40 SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:30 SAT-SUN 1:05 | 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:30

MIDWAY ED SKREIN | PATRICK WILSON WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES PG-13

PH **PH** MON-FRI 8:00 SAT-SUN 2:00 | 5:00 | 8:00

MALEFICENT MISTRESS OF EVIL ANGELINA JOLIE | ELLE FANNING WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PBP **PBP** MON-THU 5:15 | 7:50 FRI 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25 SAT 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25 SUN 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50

ADDAMS FAMILY OSCAR ISAAC | CHARLIZE THERON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PBP **PBP** MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:50 SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

DOCTOR SLEEP EWAN MCGREGOR | REBECCA FERGUSON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PBP **PBP** MON-SUN 9:00

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New award to honor arts and activism named after Lena Horne



This April 7, 1994 file photo shows singer-actress Lena Horne in New York.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**
NEW YORK (AP) — The venerated Times Square concert venue The Town Hall has created a new award

to honor arts and activism, a prize to be named after Lena Horne. The Lena Horne Prize for Artists Creating Social Impact will recognize those who "promote awareness and create social change." The inaugural winner will be honored in February. The recipient will receive a \$100,000 donation to be directed to a charity of their choice. The prize's advisory board includes Horne's daughter, Gail Lumet Buckley, as

well as Harry Belafonte, Billy Porter, Judy Collins, Desha Dyer, Roxane Gay, Bob Santelli, Bruce Cohen and Jose Antonio Vargas. Lumet Buckley says her Tony- and Grammy-winning mother didn't chase fame. "It was about advocating for equality and justice and I am so proud that her legacy will continue through the Lena Horne Prize." The prize was created by Michael Matuza, Jeb Gutelius and The Town Hall. □

'Life Isn't Everything' toasts director Mike Nichols

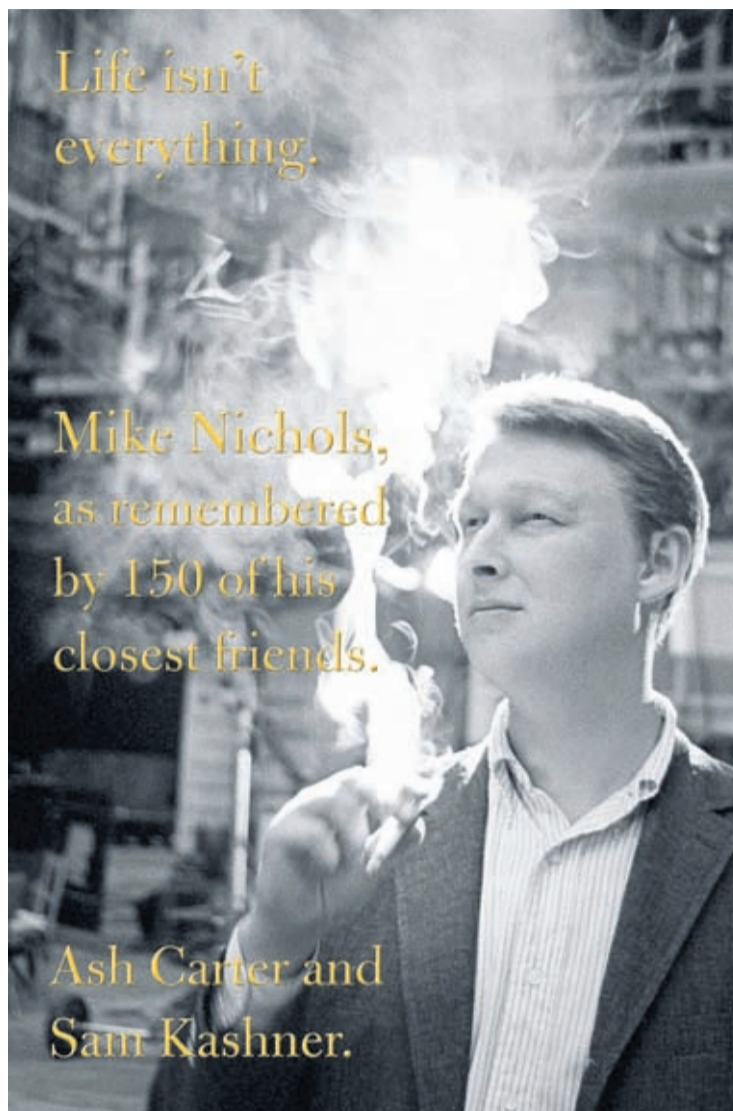
By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL

Associated Press

"Life isn't everything: Mike Nichols, as remembered by 103 of his closest friends," Henry Holt and Co., by Ash Carter and Sam Kashner
The subtitle of "Life isn't everything," a captivating oral history of the late director Mike Nichols, is no joke. But just how did the man behind popular movies like "The Graduate," "Working Girl" and "The Birdcage" plus Broadway hits like "The Odd Couple" and "Monty Python's Spamalot" find time for so many people? "He had that incredible capacity for friendship that makes you think you're absolutely unique, that nobody matters to him in the same way that you do," actress Anjelica Huston recalls.

An Oscar and eight Tony Awards tell only a small part of the tale behind Nichols' achievements in the performing arts. Add four Emmys and a Grammy plus numerous lifetime achievement honors. The fortune he amassed allowed him to enjoy the good life with perks like a jet and Arabian horses.

But Nichols never forgot how it might have turned out. Born Igor Mikhail Peschkowsky in 1931, he was 7 when he and his younger brother left their native



This cover image released by Henry Holt shows "Life Isn't Everything: Mike Nichols, As Remembered by 103 of His Closest Friends" by Ash Carter and Sam Kashner.

Associated Press

Berlin, by themselves, just a few months ahead of World War II. They joined their father, a Russian Jewish physician, in New York to await their mother's passage. Years later Nichols

— the new surname came from his father's middle name, Nikolaevich — was attending the University of Chicago when he began a move toward theater, improv and comedy.

The decade of the 1960s brought Nichols almost nothing but success. He and partner Elaine May released bestselling comedy albums and starred in a Broadway show. Each of his initial plays as a director — "Barefoot in the Park," "Luv" and "The Odd Couple" — brought him a Tony Award, and more hit plays followed. Likewise, his first two movies, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "The Graduate," were popular with audiences and critics. As the 1970s dawned, even Nichols knew he couldn't keep flying so high. "He kept saying, 'I've got to just get this failure out of the way,'" recalls a friend. The disappointments came in a barrage — "Catch-22," "Carnal Knowledge," "The Day of the Dolphin" and "The Fortune" — and Nichols went back to focusing on the theater. He didn't make a movie for eight years until 1983's "Silkwood," which put him back on track.

Professionally, what stands out in the memories of Nichols' many colleagues is his ability to guide actors to discovering their characters and developing their performances. He also could discern what works and doesn't work in a story. In the musical "Spamalot," a cow delivered a torch song under a street lamp, a

number that brought down the house. Nichols cut it because doing so streamlined the show.

And the show always came first. That's why he fired Gene Hackman from "The Graduate," replaced Mandy Patinkin with Jack Nicholson in "Heartburn" and abandoned the Neil Simon-scripted "Bogart Slept Here" with Robert De Niro after a \$3 million investment when it just wasn't working. (Rewritten and recast, the project eventually became "The Goodbye Girl.")

Friends remember Nichols as a pal, a confidant, just the best company. They and others were drawn to him because he was smart, cultured, thoughtful and caring. Being wildly successful didn't hurt. Neither did the fact that he could be quite mean — at times sarcastic and humiliating.

"He always knew when he misbehaved," says actress Candice Bergen, "and he regretted it." Adds another friend and admirer, actress Emma Thompson: "We're not talking about some sort of saint here. We're talking about a person who was very, very aware of his own foibles and failings."

The occasional criticism of Nichols helps make believable the unbelievably high praise that permeates "Life Isn't Everything." □

People magazine names John Legend as 2019 Sexiest Man Alive

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
LOS ANGELES (AP) — R&B crooner John Legend has been named the Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

The Grammy-winning singer known for his silky-smooth vocals was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on NBC's "The Voice." He serves as a coach on the singing competition series with Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson and Blake Shelton. Shelton, who was named Sexiest Man Alive in 2017, announced Legend's honor on "The Voice." The country singer then handed Legend some short shorts with bedazzled letters "EGOTS-

MA" to signify the singer's many honors: an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony and now, Sexiest Man Alive.

Legend tells the magazine in an issue out Friday the honor comes with some pressure after following Idris Elba, who was last year's winner. He jokes it "is not fair and is not nice to me!"

The 40-year-old Legend is a 10-time Grammy winner. He scored an Oscar in 2015 for co-writing the song "Glory" from the film "Selma." He won a Tony Award for his co-producer work on "Jitney" and took home an Emmy as a producer on NBC's live version of "Jesus Christ Superstar," a project



This Nov. 2, 2019 file photo shows John Legend at the 2019 LACMA Art and Film Gala in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

in which he also played the role of Jesus.

Legend has two children with model-television host-

cookbook author Chrissy Teigen.

Other recent winners include Dwayne Johnson,

Chris Hemsworth, Adam Levine, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

"I want to thank Blake Shelton," Legend said. "I observed every move he made, every utterance that came from his mouth and I think some of it rubbed off on me."

Legend said his wife is proud of him.

"I've finally impressed her," he said.

The couple's children? Not so much. Teigen posted a video of the reveal of their daughter asking to turn off "The Voice" and go back to a movie. Teigen titled the post "The kids ... do not care." □

China aims to build its own Yellowstone on Tibetan plateau

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**
EMILY WANG

Associated Press

XINING, China (AP) —

There's a building boom on the Tibetan plateau, one of the world's last remote places. Mountains long crowned by garlands of fluttering prayer flags are newly topped with sprawling steel power lines. At night, the illuminated signs of Sinopec gas stations cast a red glow over newly built highways.

Ringed by the world's tallest mountain ranges, the region long known as "the rooftop of the world" is now in the crosshairs of China's latest modernization push, marked by multiplying skyscrapers and expanding high-speed rail lines.

But there's a difference: This time, the Chinese government wants to set limits on the region's growth in order to implement its own version of one of the U.S.'s proudest legacies — a national park system.

In August, policymakers and scientists from China, the United States and other countries convened in Xining, capital of the country's Qinghai province, to discuss China's plans to create a unified system with clear standards for limiting development and protecting ecosystems.

Zhu Chunquan, the China representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a Switzerland-based scientific group, notes that the country's economy has boomed over the past 40 years. But priorities are now expand-



Peaks reach toward the sky in Angsai, an area inside the Sanjiangyuan region in western China's Qinghai province on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

ing to include conserving the country's key natural resources.

"It's quite urgent as soon as possible to identify the places, the ecosystems and other natural features" to protect, Zhu says.

Among other goals, China aims to build its own Yellowstone on the Tibetan plateau.

Zhu serves on an advisory committee providing input on the development of China's nascent national park system, expected to be officially unveiled in 2020. Chinese officials also have visited U.S. national parks, including Yellowstone and Yosemite, and sought input from varied organizations, including the Chicago-based Paulson Institute and the Nature Conservancy.

The ambition to create a

unified park system represents "a new and serious effort to safeguard China's biodiversity and natural heritage," Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm says.

One of the first pilot parks will be in Qinghai, a vast region in western China abutting Tibet and sharing much of its cultural legacy. The area also is home to such iconic and threatened species as the snow leopard and Chinese mountain cat, and encompasses the headwaters of three of Asia's great waterways: the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong rivers.

"This is one of the most special regions in China, in the world," says Lu Zhi, a Peking University conservation biologist who has worked in Qinghai for two decades. While construction continues at a frenzied pace elsewhere on the Tibetan plateau, the government already has stopped issuing mining and hydropower permits in this region.

But a key question looms over the project: Can China marry the goals of conservation and tourism, while safeguarding the livelihoods and culture of the approximately 128,000 people who live within or near the park's boundaries, many of them Tibetan?

"China has a dense population and a long history," Zhu says.

"One of the unique features

of China's national parks is that they have local people living either inside or nearby."

Yellowstone is widely considered the world's first national park. After it was created in 1872, the U.S. government forced the Native Americans who lived in the area to resettle outside the park boundaries, in keeping with 19th-century notions of wilderness protection. But countries that establish park systems in the 21st century now must consider how best to include local populations in their planning.

China has previously undertaken vast resettlement programs to clear land for large infrastructure projects such as Three Gorges Dam, which left many farmers in new homes without suit-

able agricultural fields or access to other livelihoods. But in developing the national parks, the government is giving conservation-related jobs to at least a swath of people living in the Qinghai pilot park — called Sanjiangyuan — to stay and work on their land. The "One Family, One Ranger" program hires one person per family for 1,800 yuan a month (\$255) to perform such tasks as collecting trash and monitoring for poaching.

Kunchok Jangtse is a Tibetan herder who earns money cleaning up rubbish through the program. He has an additional volunteer position installing and maintaining motion-activated camera traps, which help scientists monitor endangered species in Qinghai.

"Our religion is connected with wild animals, because wild animals have a consciousness and can feel love and compassion," he says.

From his main work raising livestock and collecting caterpillar fungus for folk medicines, Kunchok Jangtse says he can make about 20,000 yuan (\$2,830) annually. He is grateful for the additional income from the ranger program, but hopes his main livelihood won't be impeded — and that he won't eventually be forced to leave.

"I'm not a highly educated person, and I am very concerned it may bring many difficulties in my life if I would switch my job and move to another place," he says. □



The Milky Way glows behind a yak in Angsai, an area inside the Sanjiangyuan region in western China's Qinghai province on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press



Visitors climb Tianyou peak in Wuyishan in eastern China's Fujian province on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019.

Associated Press